

Gorbachev denies socialism in crisis

PARIS (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev confronted with mounting problems at home, denied Wednesday during a state visit to France that world socialism was in crisis. "To say that we have rejected socialism is simply misleading," he said at a joint news conference with French President Francois Mitterrand. "If we can bring people back into the socialist system instead of alienating them we can give socialism a second wind." The host of economic and social problems besetting the Soviet Union have weighed heavily on Gorbachev during this visit, according to French commentators and some officials. Contacts with leading writers and academics at Sorbonne University Wednesday was friendly and positive. However, there were signs of progress in ministerial talks on major trade deals during Gorbachev's trip, which continues on Thursday with a flight to Strasbourg to make the first address by an East bloc leader to the Council of Europe. Nine economic agreements were signed on the first day of his French visit Tuesday.

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Polls this year; seats increased, constituencies revised

By Najwa Najjar
and Ramia Atalla

AMMAN — In implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the government, elections to the Lower House of Representatives will be held before the end of this year to enable the citizens to participate in the decision-making process, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker announced Wednesday.

A Royal Decree issued on

Wednesday endorsed an amendment to the 1986 Election Law which increased the number of seats in the Lower House from 72 to 80.

The amendments also included modifications on constituency divisions, which, under the revised law, will be divided according to governorates, except for Amman and Irbid governorates.

Under the new law, Amman Governorate, with its total number of seats raised to 21 from 17, will be made up of six constituencies, while Irbid Governorate, with its total number of seats raised to 19 from 13, will be divided into six constituencies.

The amendments also in-

creased the number of seats in Balqa Governorate to eight, up from seven, and Zarqa Governorate was allocated two more seats, to its four. Madfraq Governorate was allocated three seats, up from two.

The number of seats in the remaining governorates were kept the same, as did the number of seats for the badia regions.

An official spokesman at the Ministry of Interior explained that the population of each governorate served as the criteria for the increase in the number of seats in various constituencies.

The new amendment, he added, followed a prolonged and expanded dialogue with the

various public sectors in the country.

The 1986 Election Law was first amended in April 1989 by the government of Zaid Al Rifai. The amendments abolished West Bank representation in view of Jordan's decision to dismantle legal and administrative ties with the occupied territory, and reduced the number of seats to 72 from 142.

The last elections were held in 1967, shortly before Israel's occupation of the West Bank. By-elections were held in 1984 to replace deputies from the previous parliament who had either resigned or passed away.

Parliament was dissolved by the King one day prior to the disengagement decision July 31,

1988. The announcement made Wednesday did not set a specific date for elections.

In Wednesday's statement, the prime minister said the legislature would now assume its normal role of serving the country and would cooperate with the executive and judicial authorities to ensure justice and to help the citizens in exercising their freedom.

"As we make this announcement, we also declare that we are working towards creating an opportune climate, which will enable the three authorities to work together in creating a productive society where justice prevails, a society in which the citizen can exercise his freedom

and where his achievements are protected and his thoughts and expressions are safeguarded," said Sharif Zaid.

The prime minister said that the government's policy would continue to be based on the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and would attempt to achieve its objectives.

He stressed that Jordan would continue to work for achieving Arab unity and give its attention to the Palestinian problem, the focal point in the Kingdom's policy.

Sharif Zaid reaffirmed the special relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and reiterated Jordan's

(Continued on page 4)



Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker

Premier says economic situation stabilising, improvements expected

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Wednesday said the economic situation in Jordan was stabilising and that the next few days would see further improvement.

Speaking at a meeting with the president and members of the board of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, Sharif Zaid reviewed the economic situation in the

Kingdom and expressed hope that the difficulties could be overcome.

He said the government was cooperating with all sectors to achieve the principal goal of bringing back stability to the dinar's exchange rate and putting an end to fluctuations in the currency rates.

The prime minister called on all sectors to shoulder their responsibility to increase production and to introduce change in styles of living.

The chamber members expressed determination to exert more efforts to help the country cope with the economic conditions.



Eighth Jerash Festival opens

JERASH (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, chairperson of the Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture, Wednesday opened the eighth Jerash Festival in this ancient Greco-Roman city.

The Queen opened the festival, which will last for 16 days, with hoisting the national flag. Akram Masarwah, director of the festival committee, lit the festival flame, which was carried by

Jordan's taekwon-do champion Samer Kamal. Queen Noor visited various festival sections, which include book and photo exhibitions and displays of handicraft and woven stuff. The Queen was accompanied by members of the festival's national higher and executive committees and senior officials as well as members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Jordan.

Likud okays Shamir election plan with radical changes

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday turned back a challenge to his leadership by hardliners in the Likud bloc who opposed his election plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip.

But in reaching a compromise, Shamir accepted the positions of his rivals and may have burdened his initiative with conditions that make it unacceptable to Palestinians.

In a speech before the party's central committee, Shamir endorsed opponents' demands that Arab Jerusalem Palestinians be excluded from voting and that the Palestinian uprising be ended as a pre-condition for negotiations.

He also said Israel would not accept a Palestinian state or the articulation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Moshe Katzav, a Shamir backer, said the compromise was to include the principles in the speech without voting on amendments to put the headline stands to the initiative.

But Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, who had led the opposition,

said on Israeli radio after the meeting: "This decision is binding on the representatives of the Likud in the cabinet."

The plan was approved 20-6 on May 14 by the coalition cabinet, which includes the Labour Party. The compromise was a victory for Shamir, who had threatened to resign if the rebel faction voted against his plan.

But it may have limited his room for manoeuvre in future negotiations. Shamir's policy speech, which included four points demanded by the rebels, was adopted with an overwhelming show of hands in support.

The key principles in the resolution adopted by the Likud central committee were:

— Continuing the initiative according to the 1978 Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accords and the government's recent proposals;

— Non-participation of Arab Jerusalem Palestinians in the proposed elections;

— Crushing the uprising before negotiations begin with the Arabs;

— Continued (Jewish) settle-

ment in the occupied territories;

— No foreign sovereignty for any part of the "land of Israel;"

— No Palestinian state in the "land of Israel;"

— No negotiations with "terrorist organisations (such as the PLO)."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has asked Israel to clarify the plan, a foreign ministry spokesman said on Wednesday. He said visiting U.S. congressmen led by Representative Bill Gray passed on orally 10 questions from Mubarak. Shamir's spokesman said he would study them closely and decide how to respond.

The Jerusalem Post described the 10 points as conditions, including a halt to settlement in the occupied territories and agreement to trade occupied land for peace.

A senior PLO official said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was expected in Cairo next week to discuss the issue.

Said Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, told reporters that Israel must accept the principle of land for peace before elections.

Tightened naval blockade raises new fears in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prowling Syrian gunboats tightened a naval blockade areas controlled by Lebanon's army commander Michel Aoun Wednesday, prompting fears of new fighting in the war-weary country.

Political sources said patrols by the Syrians off the embattled Aoun enclave to prevent arms from reaching Aoun's forces could spark a fresh round of violence.

Security sources said the Syrian naval cordon was in place for the third day running with the gunboats searching ships for arms from Iraq, which backs Aoun's interim government.

In an interview with the daily Al Diyar newspaper, based in east Beirut, Falangist party leader Dany Chamoun said he did not rule out fresh fighting.

The naval blockade was the first use by Damascus of gunboats in its 14-week siege of ports under the control of Aoun, who has vowed to expel its 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

The Syrian move came as Arab

League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi was expected this week in Beirut to seek ways of ending blockades and starting internal political dialogue.

Political sources have said Syria, which backs a rival civilian administration in Lebanon, asked three Arab states commissioned to bring peace to Lebanon to ensure the withdrawal of Frog-7 missiles from Aoun's army as a main condition for ending its sea blockade.

The missiles have a range of 70 kilometres and could reach Damascus if fired from Aoun-held territory.

Analysts said the new deadlock could abort the Arab efforts despite Syria's goodwill gesture when its allies ended Tuesday a land siege of the Aoun enclave and lifted a blockade of Beirut airport.

Aoun Tuesday summoned ambassadors of the five permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council and expressed concern over the naval blockade.

The 54-year-old general also

sent messages to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi complaining that Syrian navy vessels were "intercepting commercial ships in Lebanese territorial waters."

Meanwhile, police said the skirmished around the Aoun enclave had quieted Wednesday, one day after Lebanese militia forces reopened gateways linking the Aoun enclave with the rest of Lebanon.

Police said only "a few bursts of machine gun fire" were reported along Beirut's dividing green line and the mountain range southeast of the capital.

Police said the reopening of Beirut airport, closed since March 12, awaits the outcome of efforts exerted by Brahimi in Damascus.

Police said the airport, Lebanon's only civil aviation facility, was to resume services Tuesday. But Aoun threatened to shell the airport, in west Beirut, in retaliation for the naval blockade.

Qasem, Yilmaz review ties, regional issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem Wednesday met with Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz who stopped over in Amman en route home from Syria. The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations and reviewed the de-

velopments in the region and a number of issues of common interest.

Present at the meeting were foreign ministry secretary general and the Turkish ambassador to Jordan.

Yilmaz, was seen off Wednesday evening by Qasem and the Turkish ambassador.

Israelis make more arrests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli army arrested at least 100 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank Wednesday to take the total detained this week to about 300, Palestinians reported.

An army spokesman confirmed the troops were continuing to arrest members of popular committees and strike forces of the uprising but said the figure of 100 was exaggerated. Sources put the number at a minimum of 50.

The raids, mainly in Hebron, Nablus and Ayyariya village near Jerusalem, followed some 200 arrests in the Ramallah area Tuesday.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered the campaign to pressure Palestinians to end their 19-month-old uprising and accept an Israeli initiative, sources said.

The popular committees organise demonstrations and other protests against Israel, while strike forces of masked youths enforce strikes and directives of leaders of the uprising.

Palestinians said soldiers

raided towns and villages overnight and a daybreak Wednesday, and made house to house arrests in the cities.

In Nablus, activists killed one Arab suspected of collaborating with Israel and injured another.

Arabs found the body of a 31-year-old Palestinian in the street, hacked to death with axes. An 18-year-old was taken to hospital with broken limbs, stab wounds and cigarette burns, hospital officials said. He said he had been tortured by Palestinians.

Israel has given its soldiers orders to shoot masked Palestinians in a broadening of army rules on dealing with the uprising, political sources said Tuesday.

They said the new orders allowed soldiers to shoot masked Arabs even if they were not clearly engaged in protests, in a move which one lawmaker said smelled like an "illegal order."

Youths who hurl stones at troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and who enforce the orders of the revolt's leadership swathe their faces in head-dresses to hamper identification and arrest by Israeli forces.

China says crackdown launched on corruption

PEKING (AP) — China announced Wednesday it had arrested corrupt local officials and broken up Peking's biggest fraud case, apparently confronting some of the complaints that fueled weeks of pro-democracy protests.

The government-controlled media reported arrests, confessions and trials of officials who defrauded their work units and took bribes.

Thousands of protesters demonstrating for democratic reforms from April to June expressed anger at rampant government corruption and called for it to end.

The military halted the large street protests in a crackdown in Peking June 3-4. The government says fewer than 300 people died, while witnesses and Western diplomats say as many as 3,000 were killed.

On Saturday, the Communist Party announced it would investigate the behaviour of party members and that some would be punished.

Also Wednesday, Chinese soldiers confiscated film from a group of Japanese tourists affiliated with the Japan Socialist Party who took pictures from buses of Tiananmen Square, the centre of the protests.

Khartoum takes major step towards peace talks with rebels

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's military rulers, trying to end a bitter six-year-old civil war in the south, have declared a ceasefire and sought peace talks as the first acts of their six days in power.

The armed forces newspaper said Wednesday the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had told the 15-man junta, which seized power Friday, that it would welcome talks in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

The newspaper, Sudan's only press publication since the coup, said members of the junta would attend the talks. It did not name them or say if a date had been fixed.

About 250,000 people died in the south last year of famine and disease exacerbated by the war.

On Tuesday junta leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who ousted civilian Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, announced a nine-month unilateral ceasefire and a general amnesty for rebels fighting for political reasons.

Bashir said Tuesday the junta would start peace talks with the SPLA Thursday.

Bashir, in a statement broadcast by state Radio Omdurman, said the talks would be held in Addis Ababa.

Bashir said the talks would move his sincerity in wanting to negotiate peace. He did not say which junta members would take

part.

In Addis Ababa, the SPLA said it was considering the junta's announcements. "The (SPLA) command will make a comprehensive response as soon as possible," said rebel spokesman Major Deng Alor Deng.

Political sources said the SPLA might be concerned that the junta had not announced a freeze on Islamic law.

Secular laws are one of the main demands of the rebels, fighting what they see as domination of the south by the north.

The war has devastated Sudan's already sick economy, creating three million refugees and preventing exploitation of the country's only commercial oil find.

Mahdi said earlier this year that he wanted peace with the SPLA, but talks were inconclusive. The rebels, led by John Garang, won a string of victories and now surround several government-held towns.

Bashir, a relatively obscure army brigadier until Friday, has launched a crackdown on black marketeers, smugglers, hoarders and corruption.

The move sent the Sudanese pound surging on the black market to about 13 to the dollar Wednesday, nearly seven pounds less than before and less than a pound above the commercial bank rate.

Businessmen said some basic food items such as sugar were almost unobtainable in Khartoum because of the campaign against black marketeers.

The proposed amnesty in effect would cover the estimated 50,000-60,000 members of the SPLA.

The junta's actions stretched the cessation of hostilities in the southern regions of Upper Nile, Bahr Al Ghazal and Equatoria into a third month. Both sides stilled their guns in May and June in response to a unilateral ceasefire proposed by Garang to allow the United Nations to move 120,000 tons of relief supplies to the south to ward off famine this summer.

The new unilateral ceasefire, which took effect Tuesday, and the proposed amnesty were announced in separate statements.

The Revolutionary Council said Friday and Saturday that Mahdi's failure to end the civil war was among the principal reasons for the coup. It pledged to make peace in the south its top priority, saying it would scrap all efforts begun by Mahdi and make a fresh start.

Bashir's subsequent actions appeared to bear this out. In a Saudi newspaper interview published Monday, Bashir disclosed he had invited Garang to come to Khartoum for peace talks.

North gets fine, community service but no jail

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A U.S. judge Wednesday gave Oliver L. North a three-year suspended prison sentence and fined him \$150,000 for his role in covering up his involvement in the Iran-contra affair.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell placed the former National Security Council (NSC) aide on two years' probation and ordered him to perform 1,200 hours of community service, administering a new programme to help inner-city youth avoid involvement in drugs. He was also barred from holding public office in the United States.

He was convicted in U.S. district court May 4 of three felonies involving helping to cover up sales of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaragua's contra rebels in 1985 and 1986.

Pronouncing sentence Wednesday, Gesell told North: "I believe you knew this was morally wrong. Under the stress of the moment, it was easier to choose the fate of a martyr... I believe you still lack understanding of how the public service has been tarnished. Jail would only harden your misconceptions."

With his voice cracking,

North had said before sentence was passed, "I've devoted nearly two decades to service of my country and I would never knowingly do anything to hurt it... the prosecutor said I feel no remorse. In that, he is wrong. For I grieve every day."

North had faced a potential maximum 10 years in prison and \$750,000 in fines for obstructing congressional inquiries into Iran-contra operations, for shredding official documents to thwart investigators and for financial misconduct in accepting a \$14,000 home security fence as a gift from a business associate.

He was acquitted of nine other charges.

Gesell cited North's distinguished career as a marine officer before he became a staff member at the White House during President Ronald Reagan's administration.

He told North that during the Iran-contra affair, "I don't think you were a leader at all." He said North was "really a low-level subordinate who was carrying out the instructions of a few cynical superiors."

Gesell told North:

"Along the way you came to accept the view that Congress couldn't be trusted... that the

fate of the country could be left to a small inside group not elected that was free to act as they chose while publicly professing to act differently."

But Gesell said that even though North was following orders, "you're not the fall guy (scapegoat) for this tragic breach of the public trust."

North remained at the defence table for a few minutes after Gesell concluded the sentencing. He then walked over to his wife, Betsy, who was sitting in the front row, kissed her on the cheek and whispered in her ear. The two then smiled broadly.

في الأمل

Government declared Eid holiday starting July 12

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed for five days starting Wednesday July 12 to mark the Al Adha Eid feast which falls on Thursday, July 13, according to an official statement here Wednesday.

It said that offices will reopen for business on Monday, July 17. Eid Al Adha feast comes at the end of the pilgrimage season in Mecca, and is celebrated by the Arab and Islamic Worlds.

The announcement about Eid Al Adha to fall on July 13 was made here Tuesday evening by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FORMER MINISTER DIES: An announcement was made in Amman Wednesday of the passing away of Al Khairi, a former minister and member of the Upper House of Parliament. Khairi, who was 82, had served in a number of senior positions which included minister of national economy and agriculture. Born in Ramleh, occupied Palestine, in 1907, Khairi obtained a degree from the American University of Beirut in political science and later embarked on civil service. (Petra, J.T.)

ACC AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS TO MEET: Baghdad will host a meeting of ministers of agriculture in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries Thursday to discuss means of stepping up cooperation in agriculture-related fields. Minister of Agriculture Dr. Adnan Badran, who left for the Iraqi capital Wednesday to take part in the meeting, said that integration in agricultural fields between Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and North Yemen will be the main subject for discussion at the three-day meeting. Badran is accompanied by a senior ministry aide. (Petra)

FUNDS FOR MUNICIPALITIES: The Cabinet Tuesday allocated JD 87,000 from the local institutions aid account at the Cities and Villages Development Bank to a number of municipalities. The Cabinet also decided to grant JD 475,000 from the same account, as interest-free loans to other municipalities to enable them carry out their projects. (Petra)

PTC TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS: The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) has assigned a number of its buses to transport University of Jordan students currently taking summer courses. According to an announcement Wednesday buses have been assigned to carry the students from and to Madaba, Marj Al Hamam, Wadai, Nazir, Nazzal, Zarqa, Sahab, Taj, Hashimi, Janoubi, Marka, Naser and Hashemi Shimali districts. (Petra)

928 TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS IN ONE DAY: Traffic police registered a total of 928 violations by motorists in a single day, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily. It said that the violations occurred in the Amman area Monday and JD 2,465 in fines were collected from the violators. (J.T.)

SOVIET STUDENTS VISIT UNIVERSITIES: A student delegation from the University of Tashkent in the Soviet Union Wednesday visited the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University to acquaint themselves with their development and activities. The delegation toured the campus and visited a number of faculties and libraries. (Petra)

TRAINING COURSE ON AUDITING ENDS: A two-week training programme on auditing and financial control ended at the Industrial Development Bank Wednesday. The 20 participants from Jordan, North Yemen, Qatar, and Oman all represented financial institutions in their countries. (Petra)

FILIPINO ENVOY HONOURED: His Majesty King Hussein has bestowed on the Philippines Ambassador Juan Saez the Independence Medal of the First Order at the conclusion of his tour of duty. The Foreign Ministry secretary general delivered the medal during a luncheon banquet held Thursday in the presence of a number of ambassadors and senior Foreign Ministry officials. (Petra)

POLICE OFFICERS GRADUATE: Two batches of police officers, specialising in criminal investigation, graduated here Wednesday at a ceremony held at the Royal Police Academy. Brigadier Mohammad Al Basoul, the academy's commander, reviewed the various aspects of the training course in a speech and noted that combating crime was one of the essential services for the society and contributes to its development. The graduates he noted, have been provided with skill and training to help them carry out their future duties. Apart from criminal investigation procedures, the officers had training in public relations, regulations of civil defence, methods of conducting investigation, military training and other theoretical and practical work. Basoul later distributed the diplomas to the graduates. (Petra)

MASA'DEH RECEIVES SPANISH ENVOY: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh Wednesday discussed with Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod scopes of cooperation. (Petra)

QATARNEH CHAIRS AQABA MEETING: Ma'an Governor Eid Qataneh Wednesday chaired a meeting at the Aqaba district committee on the passengers using the Aqaba-Nweibe route. The conference agreed to ask the Arab Maritime Bridge Company to increase the ferry boats' operation on this line, to replace the current ferry boats by spacious ones, and to increase the additional trips. It was also decided to grant permits to all the buses operating in Aqaba to transport passengers from the port to Rabya suburb. (Petra)

JUST STUDENTS VISIT MONUMENT: A student delegation from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Wednesday visited the Martyrs' Monument and listened to a briefing on the Great Arab Revolt's goals, objectives, and the contents of the monument which is associated with the revolt and the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces. (Petra)

MAFRAQ TRUCK TERMINAL: The municipality of Mafraq has awarded a tender to a local company to carry out the trucks terminal project. The JD 134,000 project includes asphalted 50,000 square metres to be used as a parking area for trucks as well as providing the necessary facilities. The project will be launched in August. (Petra)

N. YEMENI TEAM DEPARTS: A North Yemeni delegation from the Ministry of Municipalities and Housing left Amman Wednesday at the conclusion of a month-long visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation held talks with Jordanian officials dealing with Jordanian expertise in housing and construction. (Petra)

SEWING COURSE GRADUATES: Chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Dr. Abdullah Khatib Wednesday presented certificates to ten women who completed a nine-month sewing course at the Ma'tamen Ibn Abbad Society. Khatib said that GUVS would make a donation of JD 800 to support the society. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by three Arab artists representing Bahrain, Syria and Jordan at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Songs of the Earth" by Mohammad Nasrallah at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of children's books held within the framework of the Ninth Arab Children's Congress at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Constructed Narratives" at the British Council.
- ★ An exhibition of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.
- ★ An exhibition which includes paintings and photos depicting the various activities of the Faculty of Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Sounder" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Ministry launches inspection campaign covering poultry farms

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture Wednesday launched an inspection campaign covering poultry farms in order to determine the number of beneficiaries from a maize distribution programme organised by the Ministry of Supply.

Agriculture Minister Adnan Badran said that the new measure also aims to ensure that the maize is being used specifically for raising poultry only.

The Ministry of Supply, he

said, has sufficient amounts of government subsidised maize to be distributed in the course of this programme.

Meanwhile, Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayoub announced Wednesday that ministry warehouses can supply farmers with any quantity they need of bran, barley and corn.

He said that the farmers can buy their needs directly from ministry warehouses without resorting to merchants in the local

market.

Ayoub announced that the ministry has floated a tender for the purchase of 50,000 tonnes of corn and consignment is expected to arrive in the coming month.

Another tender will be out in the coming two weeks for the purchase of another 50,000 tonnes.

He said that Ministry of Supply has concluded a contract with Syria to purchase the additional amounts of corn.

Only 3 meningitis cases remain

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry says it has taken drastic steps to control the spread of meningitis in Jordan and that only three such cases now exist in the country.

A report in Al Rai Arabic daily Wednesday said that last April there were eight meningitis cases in the Kingdom, down from 10 to 15 in the past year, but did not disclose the nature of steps taken to reduce the number of cases.

The report quoted Health Ministry officials as saying that

there were no plans for carrying out a mass inoculation campaign against meningitis, but that all the 15,000 Jordanian Muslims that went to Saudi Arabia for this year's pilgrimage had been immunised against the disease.

The officials said meningitis mortality rate stands at 80 to 90 per cent; and the disease which affects children as well as grown ups, causes inflammation in the spinal cord resulting from a viral infection which is highly contagious.

The officials said a victim of

meningitis feels severe headache, starts vomiting and could lose consciousness. Meningitis, they added, is on top of the list of most sinister diseases which normally end in death or permanent paralysis; and therefore immediate hospitalisation is required for urgent treatment.

The immunisation of pilgrims against the disease was required by the Saudi authorities, according to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which arranged for the inoculation programme before their departure.

Institute for deaf marks silver jubilee

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) in Salt celebrated its silver jubilee this year by announcing the addition of a new wing to the Institute's vocational training unit.

This step was taken in order to separate the vocational training programme from the production programme at the Institute, which provides care to deaf children from various parts of Jordan, according to a news letter issued Tuesday to mark the occasion.

The school which was formally opened by His Majesty King Hussein in 1964, cares for 125 deaf children with the help of 50 trained staff.



In addition to traditional learning settings at the institute, the children grow through extensive one-on-one contact with their fellow students.



Children from varying backgrounds come from all over Jordan to attend the institute. The photo shows a group participating in a classroom exercise (file photo)

ACC ministers to discuss labour integration at July 29 Baghdad talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Labour ministers from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will hold a meeting in Baghdad on July 29 to discuss means of achieving integration in labour-related matters within the four Arab countries, Labour Minister Jamal Bdour was quoted as saying Wednesday.

The question of cancelling work permits for non-national workers from the four ACC countries working in any other member country, will be among the topics for discussion at the coming meeting. "But the Labour Ministry for the time being will not take any unilateral move in this direction, the minister-told Al Dustour daily newspaper."

According to the minister, the heads of Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan had endorsed a document paving the way for labour integration within their ACC countries. They also decided to exempt nationals from the ACC states from acquiring a visa for their entry into any of the ACC states.

He said the four heads of state at their Alexandria meeting also decided that priority should be given in employment first to the national workers and second to workers from the four states.

"But more meetings and discussions are needed to formulate a strategy for closer cooperation

within the ACC as well as for labour integration; and also for cooperation with the other two Arab economic groups, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Maghreb Union," the minister noted.

Referring to the non-Jordanian workers in Jordan, Bdour said that the number stood at 130,000 by the end of 1988, nearly 85 per cent of whom were Arabs.

Bdour emphasised that his ministry was maintaining a strict policy of giving priority for employment to Jordanians and noted that Ministry of Labour teams were intensifying their inspection campaigns to ensure that ministry regulations in this connection are respected.

Bdour revealed that by the end of 1988, nearly 8.9 per cent of the total workforce in Jordan was unemployed. He said that most of those seeking employment were holders of university or community college degrees.

The minister explained that unemployment in Jordan was due to two reasons: one external and the other internal.

World economic recession and the slump in the economy of the Gulf states brought about a decline in the demand for Jordanian workers.

"This in turn caused a drop in money transfers by Jordanian expatriates to their home country

and subsequently less investments in projects that create jobs," the minister said.

The slow economic growth in Jordan and the present educational system, which turns out redundant professions, is also responsible for the present situation, he added.



King receives Amman Little League team

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday members of the Amman Little League baseball team who will then go to the United States where they will compete against other winners of the regional tournaments for the ultimate Little League trophy (Petra photo)

teams including three from Arab countries — Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Kuwait for the regional European Cup. The winners of the July 20-28 games will then go to the United States where they will compete against other winners of the regional tournaments for the ultimate Little League trophy (Petra photo)

Assad, special committee examine application for private university

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Nassreddin Al Assad had a meeting here

Wednesday with the chairman of a special committee set up to take charge of the establishment of the private university in Jordan.

Khammash receives Arab, U.S. envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — The ambassadors of the United Arab Emirates and Tunisia in Jordan had separate meetings here Wednesday with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Khammash. They discussed subjects related to cooperation in transport and telecommunications between Jordan and the two countries.

Khammash had a meeting later with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman for similar discussions. They also reviewed a programme for training personnel employed by the Jordan Ports Corporation, which will be financed by the American government under a special agreement; and another programme for training those employed at the ministry's planning unit.

The American government had pledged to provide computers and other technical equipment for the two programmes.

Also discussed at the meeting was the question of twinning Aqaba with the American city of Tampa in Florida to pave the way for closer cooperation between the two cities.

3 robbers arrested in Irbid

IRBID (J.T.) — A report in the local press gave an account of robberies committed by three men who, it said, have been apprehended and admitted their crimes.

The report said that the three young men broke into a bank in Irbid Governorate on June 29 and got away with its safe which, failing to open, left it in an outlying area.

The report said that the discovery of the three member group came by accident when last Sunday one of the thieves, identified only as A.M.A. was picked up by a police patrol committing a theft in the Irbid region.

In the subsequent investigation the young man admitted to having taken part in the robbery of the bank and gave away the names of his accomplices.

The police found the tools which the gang had used in their attempt to open the safe.

Earlier reports said that the university's capital is JD 10 million of which JD 6 million has already been raised by the expatriates.

According to Sett Ul Din Al Ramahi, who was appointed coordinator for the coming project, 90 per cent of the seats in the new institute will be assigned for children of Jordanian expatriates: a move that will ensure an inflow of between JD 300 and JD 500 million in foreign currency into Jordan on an annual basis.

2,500 travellers to cross River Jordan bridges daily

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Israeli Armistice Commission set up after the 1948 war has succeeded in ensuring daily travel to the occupied Arab territories via the River Jordan bridges of 2,500 visitors in accordance with a previous agreement.

Reports in the local press said that only 400 passengers were returned by the Israeli side Tuesday, and the rest were able to make their way to the West Bank.

The commission's intervention followed unprecedented Israeli measures designed to cut down

on the number of Palestinians crossing into the West Bank on their annual summer visits.

The Israeli measures caused congestion at the terminals near the bridges and prompted the Jordanian authorities to open three centres in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid to organise travel procedure.

Local press reports said that since the opening of the new registration centre last Sunday, 5,000 people were able to cross, and that at least 3,000 more were registered to make the trip Wednesday and Thursday to the occupied territories.

Malhas tours Irbid Governorate departments

IRBID (Petra) — Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas Wednesday toured a number of health and social development departments and centres in the Irbid Governorate.

The tour included private and public centres which provide medical and social development services.

The minister underlined the importance of close cooperation between the private and public sectors in implementing social development projects of benefit to the local inhabitants.

The minister heard a briefing on the various centres' services.

Hotel gets 1st lady chef

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Marriott's has a lady chef! Kifah Yousef Tumallah, a Jordanian who joined the Marriott one year ago and was trained under the supervision of chef Wolfgang Kifah is doing beautifully in

this primarily male profession and feels honoured and proud to have gotten where she is.

About her male colleagues in the kitchen she says: "They treat me like a queen!"

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL AMMAN, JORDAN

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1974.

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The missing commodity

THE EFFORTS of the Higher Arab Committee charged with the mandate to resolve the Lebanese crisis have already earned the support and confidence of the two superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR. The support of the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council appears also imminent. With such wide international support over and above the total Arab support, there is no way the mission of the Higher Arab Committee can fail. Nevertheless, setbacks may still occur in the global efforts to settle the Lebanese conflict once and for all. Ill-feeling, animosity and conflict of interest between the principal parties to the Lebanese conflict cannot be expected to disappear into thin air just because the international community wants them to. The process of in-depth healing would take much longer time. The return to normalcy in Lebanon clearly needs to be pursued patiently and wisely.

Yet, the firm foundation for a permanent and just settlement of the Lebanese question has been established upon the emergence of an Arab and international unanimity that found expression in the global support for the Arab efforts to stop the bleeding and heal the wounds in Lebanon. What remains to be done is to consolidate the gains already realised by exerting relentless efforts to begin a process of recreating the spirit of brotherhood in Lebanon.

Surely the principal communities in Lebanon are also tired of 15 years of armed conflict that devastated their country and ravaged the souls of the Lebanese people. It is high time that such communities realise that the relative truth and the solution may very well lie between their respective positions. Obviously there is no room for absolute positions that are not amenable to reasonable compromises.

Thus the single most wanted commodity that is still missing in Lebanon and among the Lebanese themselves is the spirit of goodwill. It would therefore be most appropriate if the Higher Arab Committee began to direct its attention to such a noble aspiration by promoting more personal contacts among the leaders of the principal parties in Lebanon under its own auspices. There is no doubt that such personal relations could remove the chill from the existing emotions that unhappily exist among the Lebanese leaders. For as long as the Lebanese leaders are not meeting one another, there is little hope of ever reconciling their bitter differences.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

The Shamir peace plan provides material for commentary in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that for the past 22 years Israel has been adamant in its position and its policies were clearly designed to undermine any peace effort in the region. Following the lapse of 22 years, Shamir has come up with a shaky plan which is being contested by many within the Likud party, led by Shamir, and described as an unacceptable formula by itself by the Arab Nation in general and the Palestinians in particular, the paper noted. It said that the plan is being rejected by the Arabs because they see in it a service to Zionism aiming to achieve its goals and end the intifada without any consideration to the rights of the Arab people of Palestine. But for the extremist elements of the Likud party, the plan represents a means for loosening the Israeli grip on the Palestinians — a move totally opposed by Sharon and other Zionist extremists, the paper continued. It said that if such a shaky plan, which represents nothing for the Arabs, is rejected by the Zionists, what then would be acceptable for them? Isn't it right to believe that the Zionists have no regard to any principles, to the Arab rights and the United Nations Security Council resolutions? concludes the paper.

A Columnist in Al Ra'i daily commends the Soviet influence over the warring parties in Lebanon on the one hand and the Arab countries in the region on the other. Tareq Masarweh notes that Moscow's influence over Baghdad and Damascus has led Iraq to announce its readiness to stop supplying the rightist elements, led by Michel Aoun with military equipment, and led the leader of the Amal movement, Amin Berri, to announce his decision to lift a blockade on East Beirut. He says that Moscow had played a quiet diplomacy and achieved these constructive steps; and through talks with the French president, Gorbachev has also sought to achieve a lasting settlement for the Lebanese problem. The writer says that these Soviet efforts corroborate the endeavours of the Arab League and its mediation committee and help to pave the way for a settlement. This assistance he notes, came from a real friend, one with long standing ties with the Arab World. Let us hope, the writer concludes, that the United States will follow suit and take a constructive step in this direction.

Sawt Al Shaab daily tackled in its editorial a report in the Washington Post newspaper that focused light on differences between the United States and Israel. The paper said that the paper's report which quoted official sources stated that Washington's official policy vis-a-vis the Palestine problem hinges on wrapping land for peace, a move totally rejected by Israel. The paper said that if this is true then it means that the United States administration is serious about its declared intention of pursuing efforts to find a solution for the problem. Through its support for the Shamir plan, the Bush administration is now trying to convince the Israeli government to take a second step for the achievement of peace, which it believes, can only be done through the exchange of land for peace, the paper added. It said that the Arab Nation should therefore maintain its drive to make Washington pursue this course of action and at the same time should not offer further concessions to win Israel's favour.

Sudan's new leader — another Numeiri or a Swareddahab?

By P.V. Vivekanand

"NUMEIRI has done the impossible" — that was my first reaction to the news flash on Friday of a military coup in Khartoum. But, as the news was filtered, it appeared that it was a little-known army brigadier, responding to the discontent of the armed forces, who overthrew the government of Sadeq Al Mahdi; and Jaafar Numeiri, despite his sabre-rattling from his exile home in Cairo, had little to do with the swift change of power in the Khartoum presidential palace.

For many it is a relief that it is not Numeiri who has taken over the reins in Khartoum. Many heads, deservingly or otherwise, would have rolled through the streets of the Sudanese capital had the ousted dictator been given the chance to extract revenge for his disgraceful exit in 1985 after 16 years of autocratic rule.

The fate of Mahdi, his cabinet and senior aides is not clear yet. The coup leader, Omar Hassan Al Bashir, has gone on record saying the toppled prime minister is on the run. There is indeed speculation that Mahdi has been executed and the truth is being kept back so as not to antagonise his tribal supporters. Some say Mahdi has crossed the border and sought refuge in a neighbouring country. (It bears logic to take a guess which country that could be; it cannot be Ethiopia, where the rebels are headquartered; it cannot be Libya which has extended a friendly hand towards the junta in Khartoum; it cannot be Egypt where Numeiri is camped; it cannot be Chad, whose leader has made no secret of his hostility for Mahdi and accused him of plotting an invasion of Chad in collusion with Libya; it cannot be Kenya which saw its claim to a border strip challenged by Mahdi. Furthermore, a respected news agency reported that its Khartoum correspondent saw Mahdi being driven to a prison in the first few hours of the coup.)

Failures of the Mahdi regime

It may be a little too late to probe the reasons that prompted the army to take matters into its own hands and assume power. But the fact remains that being a bad politician was perhaps Mahdi's major crime. His glaring indecisiveness in dealing with political infighting within his coalition and the rebellion in the south could easily be seen as the most pronounced shortcoming of his reign. Coupled with the deteriorating economic situation in the country, these failings fuelled mounting despair among the Sudanese. It was clear that Mahdi wanted to have his cake and eat it too. He pussyfooted around when it came to reasserting his authority through clearly stating his government's objectives and approach, whether in the context of consolidating the country's new-found democracy after the years of totalitarian rule under Numeiri, improving living conditions for the people, or taking advantage of rebel overtures for peace. He did a four-corner trapeze stunt with coalition partners, almost making a mockery of the people's mandate. He was incoherent when it came to taking a final decision on the issue of Islamic laws imposed by Numeiri. His economic experts were at a loss to take advantage of the sympathetic stand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

To cap everything he failed to secure the army's loyalty simply because he did not heed its call for a make-it-or-break-it move with

the southern rebellion. When his delegation was putting final touches to the first concrete step for peace in south after talks with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Addis Ababa in mid-June, Mahdi was busy issuing warlike cries against the rebels in Khartoum as if he had nothing to do with the negotiations. If he was trying to please someone, then certainly he botched the effort. His support for a determined military stand against the rebels was not matched with deeds; for, it was the clear army was telling him either to order an all-out offensive against the rebels or to opt for a peace approach without involving the army. "Give us arms or give the rebels the olive branch," the army was demanding. He did neither. If anything, he allowed ill-found political considerations to assume centre-stage when national interests were at stake and let things hanging when they needed securing. A sad demise indeed for the leader for whom the country had a lot of hopes after years of the near-dictatorship rule of Numeiri.

Bashir's agenda

It is premature to assess what lies in store for the Sudanese under the military regime. First indications are that the junta wants to get back to first base with the country's powerful neighbours — Egypt and Libya. The motivations are clear. On the one hand, having such allies will help Khartoum gain a position of military strength — and a bargaining stand — against the rebellion, one of the major problems facing any effort to restore national order. On the other hand, enlisting Egypt as a close friend will ensure pan-Arab, as well as Western, political support for the regime. Above all, it will also help reassure a majority of the Sudanese people who were disappointed with the erosion of the traditionally strong relations with their Egyptian brothers. The surprising calm with which the Sudanese greeted the coup was an indication of the displeasure of the man-on-the-street with the Mahdi regime.

But will such political/military stunts propel the junta through the very real economic hardships plaguing the country? More importantly, what is to be the fate of the millions of Sudanese on the brink of starvation in the countryside? As long as Bashir does not come up with an unambiguous proposal acceptable to the rebels to settle the revolt in the south there can be no real hope for the victims of famine and drought. For them, it matters little whether such an approach has anything to do with Islamic laws, democracy or political freedoms. Quite literally, they have no stomach for anything except food.

Bashir has said he will not interfere with international relief efforts in the south or anywhere else in the famine-hit country. But, the tacit agreement the agencies reached with the rebels on transport of relief supplies through SPLA-held territory had a lot to do with an understanding that also involved the Mahdi regime. Now, with Bashir, reportedly a veteran soldier who ferociously fought the rebels over the past several years and advocated a military solution to the revolt, leaning towards Egypt and Libya, will the rebels continue to honour their commitment? A lot depends on what Bashir does next, whether he launches his own version of a peace plan coupled with a military assault in the south to weaken the bargaining position of the SPLA or whether he accepts and appreciates the reality that the rebels are indeed Sudanese with genuine grievances, that they are not seeking

sedition and are desirous of an equitable settlement based on an end to the traditional domination of the south by the north.

Tuesday night's dramatic announcement of a unilateral ceasefire in the south and a general amnesty for all those who took up arms against the government — in essence the SPLA — and the invitation that Bashir said he was extending to SPLA leader John Garang to talks in Khartoum are the strongest signs yet of the junta's drive for peace in the south. But how far are the rebels willing to accept the offer?

Outlook for democracy

Back in Khartoum, the near-total democracy that the Sudanese enjoyed for the past three years has left a deep impression. There is no indication whatsoever yet of Bashir following the footsteps of the general, Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, who wrote his name in golden letters in history as the sole Arab to have reached the top of the leadership rung but who willingly relinquished power to the people through democracy after toppling Numeiri. There is no denying the fact the Mahdi years brought Sudan democratic freedoms, including free press and parliamentary life, though, towards the regime's last months, there was an increasing feeling among the people that military rule might not be so bad either.

From the first look of things Bashir appears to be of the same mould of the generals who ruled Sudan for most part since independence in 1956. He has declared a state of emergency, dissolved political parties and imposed a blanket ban on independent newspapers, as well as clamped a night-time curfew on Khartoum (though observed by the army with leniency in many parts, according to reports). He has given senior generals the boot, promoted himself and assumed the sweeping powers of prime minister, defence minister and armed force commander all rolled into one. Above all, he has promised to bring corrupt politicians and officials under Mahdi to book. Taking for granted that Bashir fulfils all his promises, including setting up a civilian council at an unspecified date. It still remains a long shot that the calm that prevails in Khartoum today will continue to hold.

Maybe there is euphoria in Sudan over the transition, but is it well-founded? Can a career military officer hope to live up to the expectations of a people that he would lead them out of the economic quagmire that has plagued them for decades? Will Bashir be able to draw up a sure and steady political course towards addressing his country's problems without violating the rights of the Sudanese people who are surely not willing to give up without a fight?

Can Bashir ensure that the plight of the starving millions of his countrymen are not left neglected amid the powerplay in Khartoum?

It has been widely accepted that Bashir was prompted by the discontent in the armed forces over Mahdi to stage the coup. But what reassurance do the Sudanese have that the taste of the power at the top does not get into his head and set his country's democratic process on a reverse course? Can he be another Abdul Rahman Swareddahab and step down voluntarily after setting the house in order for democracy to take its course?

Elections this year

(Continued from page 1)

continued support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its struggle to achieve the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The prime minister also referred to Jordan's continued en-

deavours to bolster its ties with Arab and foreign countries on all levels.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masadeh will hold a press conference to give more details on the election law and elections.

Following is a list of governorates and the seat allocations:

Governorate	Number of deputies
I. Amman	21 seats
a. First district (Basman, Marka and Tareq)	3 (Muslim)
b. The second district (Yarmouk, Nsour, Ra's Al Ain and Bader)	3 (Muslim)
c. The third district (Amman city, Zahran and Abdali)	4 (Muslim — one of them Circassian or Shishani) 1 (Christian)
d. The fourth district (Al Quweismeh, Al Juweideh, Abu Alanda, Khirbet Al Suk, Jawa, Al Yadoudeh, Um Qseir, and Muqablein in addition to the subdistricts of Sahab, Giza and Muwaqqar. Excluded are the bedouins from the middle part of the Kingdom).	2 (Muslim)
e. The fifth district (Shafa Badran, Abu Nuseir, Jubeiha, Sweileh, Tal'a Al Ali, Um Al Summaq and Khilda in addition to the subdistricts of Wadi Al Sir and Na'our)	5 (Muslim — one of them Circassian or Shishani)
f. The sixth district (the district of Madaba and the subdistrict of Dhiban)	2 (Muslim) 1 (Christian)

II. Irbid	8 (Muslim)
a. Irbid city and adjoining areas	1 (Christian) Deputy
b. Jerash	2 (Muslim)
c. Ajloun	2 (Muslim) 1 (Christian)
d. Ramtha and Bania Kanan	3 (Muslim)
e. Al Qurah and North Ghor	2 (Muslim)
III. Balqa	6 (Muslim) 2 (Christian)
IV. Kerak	7 (Muslim) 2 (Christian)
V. Maan	5 (Muslim)
VI. Zerga	5 (Muslim — 1 of them Circassian or Shishani) 1 (Christian)
VII. Mafrq	3 (Muslim)
VIII. Tafleeh	3 (Muslim)
IX. Bedouins	
a. North	2 (Muslim)
b. Central	2 (Muslim)
c. South	2 (Muslim)
IX. I. North bedouins: Banu Khaled, Al Sarhan, Al Iss, Al Sardiyyeh, Al Masa'id, Al Sharfat, Al Amlat, Al Zubeid.	
II. Central bedouins: The Bani Sakhr tribes — Al Ghibeen, Al Amer, Al Ka'abneh, Sleit, Al Haqish, Al Kharshan, Al Jabour, Al Shar'a, Al Badarin, Al Taybin, Al Hamad, Al Qudah, Al Salim.	
III. Southern bedouins: The Huweitat tribes — Al Matalqah, Al Tawaiha, Al Sleimaniyyeen, Al Najdat, Al Nu'imat, Al Mara'leh, Al Zawaideh, Al Mana'in, Al Hajaya, Al Atoun, Al Darawshah, Al Damanieh, Al Hidban, Al Batoumleh, Al Zalabiah, Al Sa'din, Al Rashaydeh, Al Ammarine, Al Hayawat, Al Sabeineh, Al Mashiyyeen, Al Raba'leh, Al Takat'a.	

LETTER

For the sake of the little ones

To the Editor:

I AM WRITING to applaud your editorial of Monday, June 26, on the needs of orphans in Jordanian society. As an American mother of three residing in this great Arab country, I have become involved with various children at the Ashrafiyya Orphanage. It's a great credit to this society that these children have had the opportunity to be born, albeit sometimes through hard circumstances. What a contrast to American society where hundreds of babies are killed every day through abortion. May this never happen here in Jordan! It's also a great credit to this society that they have strived to take care of these children through the S.O.S. Village, Schneller School, and various orphanages.

However, there is a much better solution for many of these children, and your recent editorial alluded to it. "There is a pressing need...to enact new laws that are in harmony with international norms...to ensure that children are put in the best, most emotional setting possible." What can be better than a home and a family?

As I come home from visiting the orphanage, from holding and

feeding abandoned newborns, playing with a hugging toddlers, giving special gifts to seven year old girls — kids just like my own — I fall on my knees and cry out to the God who loves me and who I know loves these little ones so much. I plead, "Lord, why don't these precious ones have a home? Please give them a family!"

The only obstacle standing in the way of God answering this prayer is the law prohibiting adoption. I know of about twelve God-fearing American families who either cannot have children or cannot have any more children, who would take any number of these babies, toddlers, and/or children today! God tells us to "defend the cause of the weak and fatherless."

I appeal to the governing officials of this country to change this law and let these children have a real home with adoptive parents who will love, care, and provide for them. I will do my part and find families to adopt them. Will you please do your part and change this law? Together we can make homes for these children a reality!

Monica S. Brown
P.O. Box: 910627
Amman.

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Le cessez-le-feu «immédiat» au LIBAN et la levée du blocus terrestre du secteur chrétien décrétés lundi par les partis libanais pro-syriens, laisse espérer une amélioration de la situation après plus d'un mois de négociation délicate engagée par le chef du mouvement chiite Amal, Nabi Berri, la décision incluant également la réouverture de l'aéroport international de Beyrouth. C'est chose faite depuis mardi midi. Saluaires pour la population, ces mesures étaient attendues après l'engagement pris par l'Irak trois jours plus tôt de stopper toute livraison d'armes aux troupes du général Aoun et aux miliciens des Forces Libanaises. Reste que la Syrie a refusé de rompre le blocus maritime, imposé au camp chrétien et que cette lueur de réelle trêve est intervenue au lendemain d'un week-end d'affrontements meurtriers, notamment entre Amal et le Hezbollah pro-iranien. Pour précieuses qu'il puisse se révéler, les progrès réalisés ces derniers jours constituent un succès pour la troika algéro-maroco-soudanaise, instituée par le sommet de Casablanca le 26 mars dernier. Troika, qui exigeait la fin des hostilités comme préalable à l'ouverture d'un débat parlementaire visant à réformer le système politique libanais, souhaité par le camp musulman.

Si les Beyrouthins ont de quoi demeurer sceptiques malgré les signes de «bonne volonté» affichés par les gouvernements rivaux du Liban, l'OLP pour sa part a ouvertement applaudi dimanche le «changement qualitatif» de la position européenne en faveur des droits des Palestiniens. Numéro deux de la centrale palestinienne, Abou Iyad a notamment souligné «l'intérêt particulier» accordé à la présidence française de la CEE, entamée le 1er juillet. Qualifiée de «grand ami», la France peut selon lui jouer un rôle primordial dans la résolution du conflit avec Israël, en faisant pression sur Washington au sein du Conseil de sécurité des Nations-Unies. L'appel lancé par les Douze en faveur d'une participation directe de l'OLP à toute conférence internationale de paix, a également été salué par la «direction unifiée» du soulèvement dans les territoires occupés. Un hommage qui contraste avec ses violentes critiques à l'encontre des Etats-Unis, accusés de «duplicité» et de «partialité en faveur d'Israël», dans son dialogue avec les Palestiniens. La confiance croissante de la résistance dans la diplomatie européenne sera vraisemblablement évoquée de nouveau à l'occasion du congrès du Fatah, principale composante de l'OLP. Premier congrès depuis 1980, qui doit se réunir avant la fin du mois pour remplacer notamment cinq des quinze membres du comité central du mouvement, dont Abou Jihad, assassiné l'année dernière par les Israéliens. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Précision. La dette extérieure de la Jordanie a atteint 8,347 milliards de dollars à la fin de l'année dernière, a précisé samedi le gouverneur de la Banque centrale, Mohammad Said Al-Naboulsi. L'arborescence militaire représentée à elle seule près de 2,8 milliards. M. Naboulsi a indiqué que «la différence avec le montant précédemment annoncé de 8,1 milliards de dollars provient du fait que les informations en [sa] possession étaient incomplètes».

Partis politiques. Une charte nationale, autorisant la formations de partis politiques dans le royaume, est actuellement en cours d'élaboration au sein du gouvernement. Le texte, sans précédent dans l'histoire du pays, figurera en annexe de la constitution et définira précisément les règles de la vie politique, de la justice sociale et de l'économie nationale, ont indiqué dimanche les autorités. Le projet devrait être soumis à un référendum organisé à l'occasion des élections législatives prévues avant la fin de l'année.

Multipartisme. L'Assemblée populaire nationale algérienne a adopté dimanche la loi sur les «associations à caractère politique», instituant le multipartisme dans le pays. Parmi les trente quatre amendements discutés par le Parlement depuis le 20 juin, figurent le financement des partis légaux par l'Etat, l'interdiction aux militaires, policiers et magistrats d'y adhérer et l'obligation pour tout mouvement de soumettre une demande préalable au ministère de l'Intérieur.

Péages. Le ministère des Travaux Publics et du Logement étudie actuellement un projet d'instauration de péages sur les routes principales du royaume. Selon le gouvernement, les taxes seraient limitées à certains tronçons très fréquentés et serviraient à l'entretien des revêtements.

CCA. Les responsables des Chambres de commerce et d'industrie des pays membres du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA) s'entre-tiendront le mois prochain à Amman des perspectives de créations d'entreprises privées communautaires. Ils discuteront également de l'éventuelle mise en place d'un secrétariat général des Quatre (Jordanie, Irak, Egypte et Yémen du Sud), destiné à succéder au comité créé lors de leur première conférence au mois de mai.

Gorbatchev à Paris. Le numéro un soviétique est arrivé mardi à Paris pour une visite officielle de trois jours. Une visite dense en entretiens politiques, notamment avec le chef de l'Etat français, François Mitterrand. Les deux hommes devaient se rencontrer à trois reprises et évoquer les questions du désarmement, du renforcement des relations commerciales bilatérales. MM. Gorbatchev et Mitterrand avaient également l'intention d'étudier la possibilité d'une étroite collaboration pour mettre un terme à la guerre du Liban.

Chypre européenne. Le Parlement chypriote s'est prononcé le week-end dernier en faveur de l'entrée de l'île au sein de la Communauté économique européenne (CEE). Les députés ont appelé le gouvernement à présenter une demande officielle d'adhésion avant la fin de l'année. Adhésion, qui selon une majorité d'entre eux mettrait fin à la partition de Chypre.

Profil bas à Cuba. Sept des quatorze officiers cubains, impliqués dans un trafic international d'armes et de drogue, ont été condamnés à mort mardi par la Cour martiale de la Havane. Parmi eux figurent l'ex-général Arnaldo Ochoa, accusé de haute trahison. Le scandale porte notamment sur des activités illégales avec les guerilleros colombiens du mouvement clandestin «M 19», les dirigeants sandinistes du Nicaragua ainsi qu'avec les autorités anglaises.

Faux dollars. Plus d'un million de faux dollars américains ont récemment été mis en circulation sur le marché noir israélien. Selon les enquêteurs, les billets vertes incriminés sont d'excellente facture.

Anti-crack. Plus de deux mille personnes ont été interpellées le week-end dernier en Floride dans le cadre d'une opération de police sans précédent contre le trafic et la consommation de crack, un dérivé non marché de la cocaïne. Deux jours durant, mille policiers ont quadrillé les principales villes de l'Etat, appréhendant consommateurs et petits revendeurs. La plupart d'entre eux ont été remis en liberté après paiement d'une caution de cinq mille à dix mille dollars.

Commerce. L'Italie est le premier producteur mondial d'objets de culte, avec un total de ventes dépassant 1,07 milliard de dollars, selon une étude effectuée à l'occasion du premier salon national des entreprises de ce secteur en pleine croissance. Les fabricants de la Botte, essentiellement localisés en Toscane, en Lombardie et en Vénétie se distinguent notamment par leurs innovations dans le domaine des équipements de surveillance et d'entretien des tableaux et autres fresques, ainsi qu'en matière de confessionnal insonorisé. Il fallait y penser.

Moscou en patins. Sept jeunes Français ont quitté Rennes, dans l'ouest de l'Hérault, samedi dernier, pour gagner Moscou en patins à roulettes. Accompagnés par onze camarades, qui ont préféré enfourcher une bicyclette, ils appartiennent à une association baptisée «SVP» (Ski-Vélo-Patins), et espèrent arriver le 17 août dans la capitale soviétique après avoir parcouru près de 3000 kilomètres.

Prénom: Dieu. L'état civil de la ville de Kiel, dans le nord de la RFA, a refusé d'enregistrer «Gott» (Dieu en allemand), prénom choisi pour leur enfant par de jeunes parents particulièrement pieux. Le père, qui s'était adressé à une commission des litiges pour obtenir le prénom, a été débouté par les juristes qui ont estimé que «Dieu» n'était pas un nom pour un petit garçon. Sans appel.

Le festival de Jerash s'est ouvert hier

Pour la culture et dans la controverse

800 artistes de 19 pays invités, 5000 à 10000 spectateurs attendus: le festival de Jerash reste la plus grande manifestation artistique du monde arabe. Sur fond de polémique autour du coût d'un événement qui certains remettent en cause.



Du folklore au ballet classique, des orchestres populaires à la musique de chambre, du monde arabe aux pays occidentaux ou asiatiques, le huitième festival de Jerash affiche une totale fidélité aux objectifs assignés à l'événement dès sa création, il y a neuf ans: «Le refus de tout ostracisme et le brassage culturel», comme le rappelle son directeur, Akram Masarweh. Les trois coups frappés hier soir au Théâtre Sud de la cité antique par les danseurs japonais du Shochiku Kagedi

Dan ont illustré cette vocation d'ouverture et d'éclectisme. «Le Japon, à l'instar de Trinidad et de la Suède, participent pour la première fois au festival», souligne Akram Masarweh. De même que nous inaugurons cette année les concerts de musique de chambre, le théâtre tunisien ou encore le folklore sud-américain. Visiblement satisfait d'un programme auquel son équipe travaille depuis un an, il insiste tout autant sur l'effort de promotion «sans précédent» consenti

pour l'édition 89. «La campagne publicitaire menée par la compagnie aérienne Royal Jordanian a touché les pays du Golfe, l'Europe et les Etats-Unis. Elle se traduit, entre autres par la présence de plus de 100 journalistes venus couvrir la manifestation». Qu'on l'attribue à la présence de troupes prestigieuses comme le Ballet du Nord (voir ci-dessous) et le Ballet de Leningrad, ou au théâtre et à la poésie égyptienne, libanaise, tunisien-

ne... l'écho international du festival est indéniable. Les organisateurs escomptent ainsi entre 5000 et 10000 spectateurs, tant Jordaniens, qu'étrangers. D'ores et déjà considéré comme un succès, le 8e festival a cependant dû faire face à de nombreuses et virulentes critiques. Argument majeur de ses détracteurs, son coût, estimé à plus de 200 000 dinars. Ses plus farouches opposants ont notamment mis en doute l'«opportunité d'un tel luxe» au moment où la Jordanie traverse une crise financière et économique aiguë. Reproche d'autant plus justifié à leurs yeux que le déficit enregistré en 1988 a atteint 29000 dinars et qu'il devrait s'établir cette année autour de 19000 dinars.

«Il s'agit de dire que le festival bénéficie indirectement aux restaurants, aux compagnies de transport, aux commerçants installés sur le site, répond Akram Masarweh. Tout comme ils omettent de dire que les artistes étrangers sont tous pris en charge par leurs propres pays et que nous ne payons que les prestations de deux ou trois formations jorda-

niennes. Plus sévères sont les critiques des habitants et de la municipalité de Jerash. Selon une enquête du quotidien «Raï» publiée la semaine dernière, ils reprochent notamment à la direction du festival de «fermer les portes à [leur] participation». Opposés au fait que leur cité se transforme pendant quinze nuits en gigantesque parc automobile et qu'il leur incombe chaque matin de nettoyer les rues, ils réclament un régime de faveur, tant pour l'octroi de stands que pour l'obtention de billets à prix réduits.

Requête irrecevable, estime Akram Masarweh. «Les places les plus chères coûtent 4 dinars et elles se limitent aux représentations des ballets français et soviétiques. Quand aux emplacements commerciaux, nous en avons réservés aux artisans et vendeurs de la ville». Rejetant la controverse, le directeur du festival lui-même une question de fond: «La culture est-elle une affaire économique qui se doit d'être rentable ou contribue-t-elle à l'éducation et à la maturité des peuples?» Alain Renon.

Le Ballet du Nord au grand complet



Ils et elles seront tous là, sur la scène antique du Théâtre Sud de Jerash, pour deux représentations samedi et dimanche. Les trente deux danseurs du Ballet du Nord, ambassadeurs de la culture française à l'occasion de la huitième édition du festival.

doté d'un solide répertoire tant classique que contemporain, marqué par l'empreinte de George Balanchine, montre de la chorégraphie du XXe siècle. Deux oeuvres du maître figurent au programme de la prestation offerte par les artistes hexagonaux ce week-end: «Tarantella», sur une musique du compositeur Louis Moreau Gottschalk, et «Who Cares?», dont la partition est signée George Gershwin. Créations du New York City Ballet auxquelles s'ajoutent «Percussions pour Six», de Lee Gurst et André de Tollenaere (chorégraphie de Vicente Nabreda), ainsi que «Les Nuits d'Été» imaginées par le choré-

graphe français Jean-Paul Comelin, et mises en musique par Berlioz.

Après la Jordanie, le Ballet du Nord doit se rendre en Angleterre, en Italie (pour la présentation à la fin de ce mois de «Marie-Antoinette», créée par Alfonso Catá), avant d'entamer deux grande tournées. La première en octobre prochain en Asie du Sud-Est (Hong-Kong, Singapour, Taiwan et Jakarta); la seconde aux Etats-Unis, de la côte Est à la côte Ouest, programmée en avril et mai 1990.

Représentation les 8 et 9 juillet à 21h30 (Théâtre Sud). Prix des places: 4 dinars.



Photo Peter Perazzo

Poésie

Ma ville

Plus grande que la grandeur, ma ville est une joie versée dans les rues. Toutes les époques de l'histoire se croisent dans ma ville, comme si elle avait des cheveux blancs. Ma ville a des yeux fatigués de lecture. L'après-midi, elle exprime l'immense silence de la vie et dans la nuit, vous sentez sa tristesse comme des échos de la préhistoire.

Ma ville a fait naître des dieux grecs. Elle a donné un couleur qui adore le soleil à toutes les Romaines. Le vin des Romains tache encore ses pierres.

Dans ma ville, le soleil se tait comme le sable. Ma ville est chargée de lumière. Dans son cœur, un amour envie par les âges. Les peuples propriétaires de la civilisation y ont planté leurs racines. Ma ville a plié. Elle est savante et a fait naître de grands peuples qui ont libéré les esclaves et les barbares.

Dans ma ville, les gens ne sont que des voyageurs qui ont soif. Innocents comme les pierres. Héros comme la liberté, sages comme les Grecs.

Dans ma ville, il y a des ombres chaudes, nées des olives. Il y a des montagnes qui observent l'angoisse des vieux et les desirs des jeunes avec indifférence. Il y a assez de place pour les bavardages des poètes et pour tous les témoignages. Il y a une grande souffrance, plus profonde que la mer, plus claire que la neige, plus verte que l'espoir, plus rouge que l'amour, plus jeune que la jeunesse.

Ma ville s'est devant la rivière de la vie, se moquant du mur de la mort. Les aveugles sont assis sur de vieux tapis. Les autres regardent la Lune en sommeil.

Faïçal Al-Zurragat.

Ecoles fermées en Cisjordanie

Apprendre malgré tout

Tandis qu'en Jordanie les étudiants attendent les résultats du Tawjihi, les jeunes Palestiniens de Cisjordanie sont privés d'école pour la deuxième année consécutive. Une scolarité clandestine s'est organisée peu à peu pour que les enfants ne deviennent pas analphabètes, mais aussi pour garantir une formation professionnelle.



Apprendre à lire et à écrire pour Khalil, 6 ans, c'est aussi découvrir la clandestinité.

Une fois n'est pas coutume, les habitants d'un village des environs de Ramallah, en Cisjordanie, se retrouvent pour faire la fête. Une fête silencieuse, dans une atmosphère lourde, à quelques centaines de mètres des soldats israéliens. Les villageois arrivent par petits groupes pour voir l'exposition d'artisanat traditionnel palestinien, qui témoigne du travail accompli par 25 femmes en 8 semaines d'apprentissage clandestin.

Sur les murs peints en bleu de deux petites pièces aménagées en salles d'exposition de fortune, les longues robes en velour noir ornées de broderies aux couleurs vives côtoient des nappes décorées au point de croix ou des drapeaux palestiniens tricotés. Les visiteurs grignotent des gâteaux et circulent lentement d'une pièce à l'autre avec la ferveur de ceux qui résistent. «On fête la fois le succès d'une formation clandestine et la culture palestinienne», explique Samia, l'une des élèves de l'atelier. Pour nous, c'est la preuve qu'on peut conserver une identité malgré l'occupation qui nous étouffe. Une occupation qui, depuis deux ans, prive les jeunes Palestiniens d'éducation.

apprendre à lire et à écrire aux plus jeunes et donner un métier aux plus âgés. «L'éducation est notre bien le plus précieux, c'est notre avenir et la base de notre nation. C'est pour ça que les Israéliens s'y attaquent. Mais nous ne les laisserons pas fabriquer une génération d'analphabètes et de chômeurs», s'insurge un instituteur de Ramallah, qui enseigne dans la clandestinité.

Reste que les élèves ne peuvent rencontrer leur professeur qu'une fois par semaine et que les conditions précaires affaiblissent la portée de l'enseignement. Plusieurs classes d'une dizaine d'élèves se retrouvent parfois entassées dans un petit appartement, loué pour la circonstance. Sans chaises ni tableau noir, les cours se déroulent dans la hantise d'une intervention militaire.

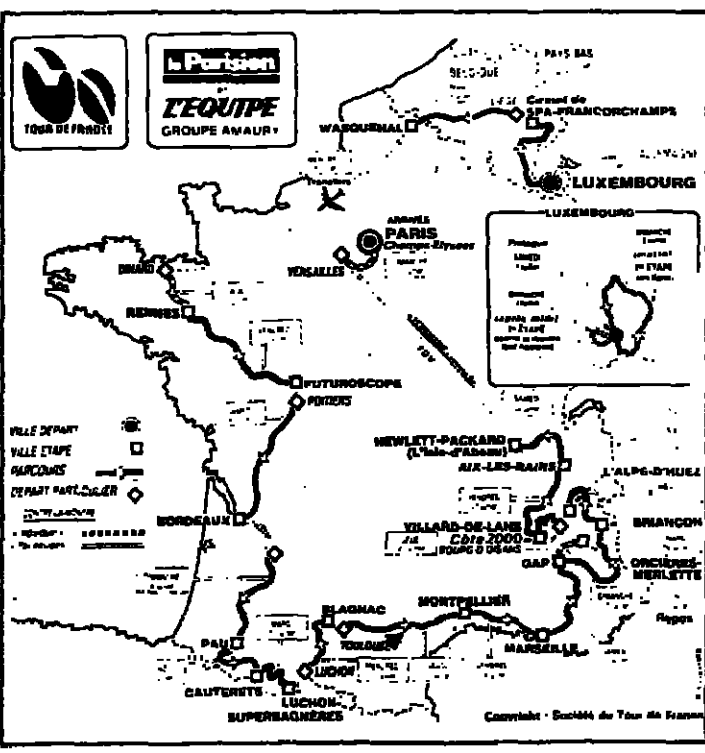
Pendant l'exposition, les femmes évoquent leurs consignes pour déjouer la vigilance des soldats: «On devait changer le lieu des cours le plus souvent possible et parler à mi-voix pour ne pas attirer l'attention». En 8 semaines, des jeunes filles, qui ont interrompu leurs études, des mères de famille ou des femmes au chômage ont appris un métier en cachette. L'une d'entre elles avait commencé une licence d'économie à l'université de Bir Zeit. Aujourd'hui, elle ne croit plus à la récupération des écoles. Si elle a choisi d'apprendre la broderie, c'est aussi parce qu'elle incarne une culture palestinienne reculée jour après jour par l'occupation israélienne.

Florence Montell

Le 76e tour de France

Rien de bien révolutionnaire

Après une journée de repos, le peloton du Tour dispute aujourd'hui la cinquième étape, entre Dinard et Rennes, dans l'ouest de la France. Un contre la montre individuel de 79 kilomètres qui s'annonce difficile pour le maillot jaune Da Silva. Epreuve prestigieuse du sport cycliste, la 76e édition se distingue plus par des innovations administratives et réglementaires que par une «révolution» de la course.



Le tracé 1989: retour à un certain classicisme.

Le Tour 1989 n'échappe pas à la règle. Bicentenaire oblige, ses organisateurs le disent «révolutionnaire». Les passionnés de l'épreuve, commentateurs inclus, ne pensent manifestement pas tout à fait la même chose. Le tracé de la course, pièce à conviction numéro un pour tout initié qui se respecte, leur paraît plutôt marqué par un retour à un certain classicisme. Certes pigmenté de durs tronçons en montagne, péché mignon des grimpeurs colombiens, espagnols ou... belges, et de longs «contre la montre», à la satisfaction des spécialistes de l'effort en solitaire.

Les 79 kilomètres en individuel, ce jeudi, entre Dinard et Rennes, de même que les cols pyrénéens et alpins (avec la réapparition du célèbre col de l'Izoard), mettront en tout cas les organisateurs à rude épreuve. Une épreuve qu'il faudra surmonter jusqu'au final à Paris, le 25 juillet. Finie en effet la promenade

ponctuelle par un sprint groupé sur les Champs-Élysées, remplacée cette année par un contre la montre de 29 kilomètres autour du jardin des Tuileries. Là se

sième le «bouleversement» le plus significatif par rapport aux Tours précédents.

C'est sans doute dans l'organisation de la course qu'interviennent les véritables changements. Ainsi note-t-on l'absence d'un retour aux fins d'étape dans les grandes villes, où les aires d'arrivée sont plus spacieuses et où les capacités d'hébergement permettent de faire face au gigantisme qui caractérise désormais l'épreuve.

Autres innovations: le renforcement des contrôles anti-dopage et une chasse organisée à la «poussette» ou à la «dette» dans les montées de cols. Des commissaires de course, installés à bord d'hélicoptères, pourront sanctionner sur le champ les coureurs encourageant leurs supporters à mettre la main à la pâte. D'autres, équipés de caméras sur les motos officielles, ont été chargés d'enregistrer les flagrants délits.

Modifications, innovations, retouches; autant de mesures qui n'ont rien de bien révolutionnaire, mais qui illustrent un désir réel de nouvelles formes capables de conserver au Tour de France son prestige actuel. La vraie «révolution» reste à venir.

André Daoudal.

Mots croisés

par Florence Montell

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
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Horizontalement.

1: chants. 2: coiffeux. 3: sans pli; après le prisonnier. 4: essayer. 5: réaliser; camarades. 6: infinitif; préposition; non acquis. 7: crié à pleine gorge. 8: quitte le navire les premiers; pronom personnel 9: période; assisté. 10: pronom personnel; les autres.

Verticalement.

A: donner un code. B: bête de somme; partie du corps. C: fuir brûler Rome; enlever phonétique. D: mélancolies. E: poète; négation. F: assassiner; pronom. G: spécialiste; multiple de 10. H: elle veille. I: préposition; choisi. J: rangée; ancien.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFRICHE

CINEMA

Strictement personnel, de Pierre Jolivet, avec Pierre Arditi, Jacques Pesot, Caroline Chanioulet et Jean Reno (1985). Arditi, dans le rôle d'un policier de province, rêveur et à la fibre littéraire. Amené à se rendre à Paris, il découvre que sa famille s'est marginalisée et enquête sur le suicide de son père.

Centre culturel français, jeudi 6 juillet à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Sounder, de Martin Ritt, avec Paul Winfield, Cicely Tyson et Kevin Hooks. L'histoire, un tantinet misérabiliste, d'une famille de Louisiane pendant la Grande Dépression des années trente.

Centre américain, jeudi 6 juillet à 19h00 (en anglais).

The empire strikes back, d'Irvin Kershner, avec Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher et Billy Dee Williams. Une poignée de rebelles de l'espace, en lutte contre le démoniaque empire sidéral de Darth Vader. Pour sauver la galaxie, faut-il le préciser?

Centre américain, dimanche 9 juillet à 19h00 (en anglais).

Remontons les Champs-Élysées, de Sacha Guitry et Robert Bilhal, avec Lisette Lanvin, Sacha Guitry, Joseline Gaël et René Fauchoux (1938). Un jeudi de septembre 1938, un professeur interromp son cours de match pour raconter à ses élèves l'histoire de la plus célèbre avenue parisienne. De Rousseau à Bonaparte.

Centre culturel français, lundi 10 juillet à 20h00.

20000 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Système solaire, vidéos documentaires de la NASA (agence spatiale américaine) sur les explorations de la Lune et de la galaxie par les robots de la dernière décennie. Centre américain, mardi 11 juillet à 19h00 (en anglais).

Ciné-club. Suite du mois des festivals européens. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.

Jeudi 6: Kafar Qassam (libanaise): Company of wolfs; Platoon; Mask: The kiss of the spider woman.

Vendredi 7: Adieu Bonaparte (française): Genny; Mithras.

Samedi 8: Evil dead; An other time, an other place; The seven samurai (part one); Birdy; The machine.

Dimanche 9: Mad Max II; Secret places: The seven samurai (part two); Purple rose of Cairo; After hours.

Lundi 10: The bug; Why Alexandria?; The flat; Les Chariots de feu; Mona Lisa.

Mardi 11: Wilton; Places in the heart; La bataille d'Alger; Promission; Paris-Texas.

Mercredi 12: Christine; Hanna K.; Atlantic city; All that jazz; Excalibur.

Films en version originale. Tél: 603931. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche, 300m.

TELEVISION

La lettre perdue, de Jean-Louis Ferrucci, avec Michel Galabru, Eva Darlan, Patrice et Jean-François Stévenin. A la suite d'un courrier égaré, un homme vieillissant et solitaire entreprend une correspondance avec une petite fille malade...

JTV, vendredi 7 juillet à 17h30.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: canotiers. 2: onéreuse. 3: déridé; nom. 4: oser. 5: font; amies. 6: ir; en; inné. 7: égoïsité. 8: rais; elle. 9: an; écuille. 10: se; eux.

Verticalement.

A: codificas. B: âme; organe. C: Néron; ot. D: tristesse. E: adieu; sentinelle. F: tu; élu. G: remède; ex.

An Egyptian writer speaks frankly about: Probing the heart and soul

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Journalist and writer Sekina Fouad likes to go straight to the point and look at facts, especially social and cultural issues. Her sometimes incisive personality has made her a controversial figure on Egypt's cultural scene, but she has managed to make herself heard through her novels, a weekly column devoted to radio and television programmes, and through a magazine she edits.

With her light-coloured skin, almond-shaped eyes and a mouth that does not often smile, Sekina Fouad resembles the heroines in her novels. She welcomes her guest to a small apartment on Dokki Street that's buried under flamboyant trees. In the living room the walls are covered with book-lined shelves, with stacks of videocassettes. Where you expect to find comfortable couches and coffee tables stands an enormous desk littered with papers.

Obviously, work takes up a large part of her life. It's intellectual work, yet she brings to it a great sensitivity and awareness of other people's feelings.

Following are excerpts from a recent interview she gave:

Question: Could you explain what in your background led you to choose your career?

Answer: "I was born in Port Said, near the sea. It's probably why all the characters in my novels share the traits of seafaring people: they are strong-willed, they like challenges, they persevere... and they believe in a better future. When I was growing up the towns on the Suez Canal experienced the fear and danger of war, with the occupa-

tion of Mount Sinai (by Israeli troops); people were mobilised and ready to sacrifice everything; that's where I learned what courage meant. Then I came to Cairo to enroll at the university, but I was married before graduating—I like to do things fast, taking life slow kills me! Then I went to work, and I was lucky to do what I enjoyed most. I am convinced, though, that studies and work did not shape my personality much... we are the product of the environment where we grew up, for me the sea has always been the main factor," she said.

Q. Is it the sea which inspired you to be an activist, almost a pioneer figure in art circles?

A. "The sea, and war. Circumstances were such that I had to grow up quickly; there was no time to enjoy the sweetness of childhood. I understood early that what looks calm on the surface can hide an abyss of despair. I learned that a smile can hide anguish, and that the most insignificant person can become a hero because of his capacity to endure."

Q. You are one of a few women in the Middle East who have the means to express their opinion publicly because of their profession. Millions of women are not as lucky; what do you have to say to them?

A. "I have no particular message for them, but I am trying to reach out to the women who can spread a message to tell them that we must be the instruments through which all women can speak. In my books I try to connect to the common experience of women, to break out of my subjective limits to reach a much larger reality reflecting the

life of all Egyptian women."

Q. Have you thought about doing your own television programme? And what sort of programmes do you favour?

A. "I am not fond of images. My relationship to the 'written word' is more satisfying. As I think my weekly column or television allows some influence on programming, that's the extent of my work with images! I push for TV productions investigating social issues and providing some advice, like 'Rissala' (Message). I suggested that this show be extended to one or two hours, with the cooperation of lawyers, doctors and psychologists who could help people solve their problems. Also, I would like to see again on television productions like 'Les Gens du Caire' (People of Cairo) or 'Usages et Coutumes' (Customs and Mores) which mirrored our society in the 1960s. It would be interesting to watch where we are at now."

Q. What is your evaluation of Egypt's current drama productions, in the theatre, the movies and television?

A. "I don't think Egypt's people, its beauty, history and hardships are well represented. Many artists and producers do not seem to understand their role or responsibilities. Today's art is a pale heir if you compare it to this nation's 7000-year history and its wealth of human resources through out centuries past. The recent period when we saw Egypt open its doors wide to everything foreign generated a form of art that reminds me of a skin disease. Gone was the art that probes the human soul and heart."

Q. Why do you think this happened?

A. "We are just coming out of a period where we had lost track of spiritual values to focus on the material aspects of life. It affected art, as well as our concept of work, education and culture in general. Let's not forget also the spread of images of all sorts that now pervade our life; not that images are without value or superficial, but they encourage intellectual laziness. Years ago Georges Duhamel had predicted that culture would decline when images would dominate, and he was speaking before television was invented! Many intellectuals have lost courage and feel useless when confronted with troops of image producers giving us insipid fare that's easy to consume."

Q. Do you believe that censorship is a factor in today's artistic creations?

A. "We live in a democratic society where we enjoy freedom of expression. However, we are bearing the consequences of a previous era when censorship struck without logic. The system in place still allows a bureaucrat with limited education or a young university graduate to judge the merits of authors like Nobel Prize-winner Naguib Mahfouz, Yehia Hakki or Youssef Idriss. When publishing my books and articles I saw first-hand what a free society we had, but I also saw censors act arbitrarily, often because of ignorance or because they misunderstood."

Q. Do you see television playing a positive role in the development of Egypt?

A. "Television could have a very influential role when it comes to the economy, society and education, for example warning

against old customs that should be discarded. But we should have a concerted effort among TV producers. There could be special programmes or even musical entertainment with a message, whatever it takes to reach a large segment of the population. And the first message should be to build more faith in our country and in the virtues of hard work. Artists should warn us about what society will be like if we continue saying 'it's not my problem' and pursue selfish goals."

"I would ask psychologists, sociologists and educators to collaborate on programmes that can be understood by children as well as adults and would implant the ideas that we each have a role to play, we each should give our best. I would be happy if as a result a spectator just goes to clean up his room!"

Q. Are you happy with your own work?

A. "No, I am never satisfied." Q. One of your novels, "La Nuit Ou Fatma A Ete Arrestee" (The night Fatma was arrested) was recently made into a film, with Faten Hamama—a prestigious Egyptian actress—in the role of Fatma. Wasn't it something very satisfying?

A. "It was a fantastic experience thanks to Mrs. Faten, who is exceptional. She confirms my belief that success is based not only on raw talent, but also on patience, perseverance, intelligence and personal sacrifice. This great lady of the Egyptian cinema has devoted her life to her art, without compromising in any way. She is not one of these artists led by their whims and passions."

"But I must admit that her Fatma is not the character in my



Writer Sekina Fouad says that women who can spread a message "must be the instruments through which all women can speak."

book; the film focuses too much on the individual instead of making her only the symbol of what a whole group of people feels and thinks. The movie also did not show on Fatma the stigma of suffering and tiredness. But then a movie is always a variation on the vision from which the writer creates."

Q. Recently you agreed to step over the barrier between film and book to write the script for another movie based on a novel

you wrote which is titled "Tarwid El Ragol" (The Training of Man). How is it coming along?

A. "The pain is incredible! I feel trapped and very sorry for myself! I feel uneasy because writing a movie script does not fit my temperament: I am used to doing what I like, when I feel like it—be it in the kitchen or when I face a blank sheet of paper. To me writing is a love story, while doing a script is something technical; of course there is creativity involved, but I am not alone with my characters, shaping them the way I want to. I don't like mechanical rules and people intervening between me and my characters."

Women's worst critics

Q. This movie which is causing you so much trouble will look at problems in relationships between men and women. The main characters will be played by Mahmoud Moursi and Raghdia. Could you tell us more about it?

A. "I wrote 'Tarwid El Ragol' after a long talk with Tawfik el Hakim, whose perception of the relationship between an educated man and a woman is very disappointing. You would think that a man with a formal education, because of the knowledge he has gained and his intelligence, would show respect and empathy for the weaker sex. Well, it's the opposite, starting with Socrates and Plato, male intellectuals are women's worst critics."

"Man is born from a woman; there has to be a special relationship. We must fight the antagonism that is too often present between the two sexes. It's abnormal. What's normal is a relationship firmly grounded on friendship and understanding. Circumstances often make dialogue impossible. In my book I tried to show how men and women need each other's support and affection and I ask intellectuals to give the new generations another image of the male-female relationship. Men are not the only guilty party, though: some women who have studied and hold a job see men as adversaries. Sometimes the antagonism must be caused by fear, or disappointment."

Q. Can a woman from the Middle East have the same intellectual friendship with a man that a Western woman does?

A. "Ideally, yes. But we now see a resurgence of negative theories about the work women should do, girls' education and a

woman's role in society. Gains that had been made at the beginning of this century are questioned again: Women's right to attend school and work, for example."

Q. What causes people to turn to the past for answers?

A. "This question would deserve an in-depth study of the social, historical and economic forces which brought us where we are—caught between the past where some take refuge and the present which is misunderstood, leading us to copy without thought the West's customs and discard ours."

"Starting with a balanced point of view, we should choose among our traditions for what's best and leave behind what is a factor of weakness and does not fit with the truth. From the West and other regions, let's borrow what will be useful and will enrich our culture, because we can't live isolated from the rest of the world. This way we would be in a position to tap our roots while being in step with other nations of the world. The current reality is quite different: part of the population has adopted a foreign way of life, while others firmly believe that the present is corrupt and that salvation lies in the past. It did not help to have our writers and intellectuals attack and throw out our historical heroes and the leading figures of the past."

Q. How do you envisage the role of the family and the schools in rearing the new generations?

A. "Families are facing the same problems we discussed, just like individuals. It's an identity crisis. The family unit does not know anymore whether children should behave according to strict traditional rules, or whether they should learn Western ways. As for our schools they battle overcrowding and their resources are stretched to the limits. Programmes are too long, too heavy and often they do not develop a child's natural talents. We may have a generation of children with no more creativity than pre-recorded videocassettes. Too many children grow up without realising that pursuing a formal education is their only chance to a rewarding life where they are at ease with themselves and the world. I have been told that some educational officials are trying to address the problem, and the educational system may be thoroughly overhauled. Maybe this is our opening to a better future!" — World News Link

A rare writer

By Domenica Russo

PARIS — Simone Schwarz-Bart is a rare writer. In 1973, she published a (Guadeloupean family) chronicle "Pluie et vent sur l'île miraculée" (Rain and wind on the miracle island). By being proverbial, they participate, maintain and constitute the oral tradition. The songs and nursery rhymes in "Pluie et vent sur l'île miraculée", and the tunes in "Ton beau capitaine" reveal the musical way of expression, real words between people.

Simone Schwarz-Bart continues the work of Aimé Césaire. She pushes back the frontiers of language and gives it a rhythm and a tempo whose violence and profusion have no equal but the abundance of words explored.

For the author of the Guadeloupean saga, writing is "showing the soul and mankind. When my eyes go out, I don't want the people I have seen to die."

Simone Schwarz-Bart's work is also the memory of a land and a people. It is interspersed with the story of men and women who have to part. "This separation is attested by the distant loving relationship between Whino, a Haitian agricultural worker, and Marie-Ange his wife."

— French features.

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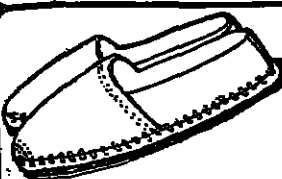
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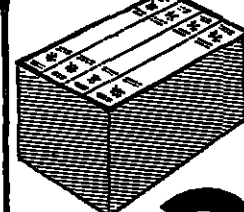


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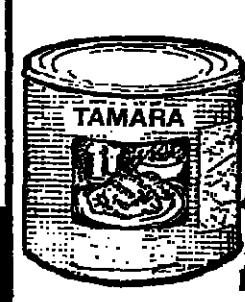
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Focus on People

Aiding the needy

By Marian M. Shahin

This week Dr. Rafiq Hussein, director of the London-based charity group, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), talks to Focus on People about the possibility of setting up a Jordanian chapter of MAP.

PEOPLE in the Middle East and around the world reacted in many different ways to the June 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Some wrote letters to their local newspapers; some reproached their governments for supporting the Israeli government; some demonstrated in the streets. While some sent food, money, medications and clothing, others cried and some did nothing because they simply did not care.

Dr. Rafiq Hussein, who held a teaching post at the University of Birmingham at the time, did none of the above.

Along with a group of London-based medics, which included Dr. Swee Chai Ang, Hussein volunteered to go to Lebanon to help the war-victims in his capacity as a doctor.

The apparent need for medical expertise, utensils and equipment as well as medications of the Palestinian community in Lebanon in particular was apparent to all the volunteers in Hussein's group.

As a result, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) was founded in London in 1984. Its aim was to help Palestinians in Lebanon, and the Israeli-occupied territories. Hussein points out that "our aim was to help where help was needed; in specialised fields of surgery and nursing, in acquainting Palestinian medics and nurses with technological knowhow. We began as a very modest charity, because initially we were interested in offering human services and knowhow rather than actual funds. Neither our aims nor our methods have changed in the past five years. The donations we receive are used for medications and equipment and not on frivolous offices."

MAP has an active staff of six office workers in London, a board of trustees of 15 and medical teams "on location" in Lebanon and the occupied territories.

"The fact that our volunteers — there are five in the West Bank, and one in Gaza at present — are non-Arabs has its advantages," Hussein says. "For the most-part they are somehow able to protect the various hospitals or institutions that they are working in. Often their presence draws publicity in the foreign press which is bound to be positive because the volunteers see what really is happening under Israeli occupation. The world in turn is more likely to listen to non-Arab voices protesting the suffering of Palestinians."

MAP is probably the charity that has received the most media coverage in Britain in the last three years in spite of its relative modesty. Swee's Gaza experience was documented in a BBC special documentary programme that was shown on British television earlier this year. The following day, five British surgeons approached MAP to volunteer their services, according to Hussein.

Despite the fact that many Arab medics cannot actually offer their services to the people in the occupied territories because they simply cannot go there, Hussein emphasises that the Arab medical community has a very important role to play.

"The contribution of Arab medics in the Middle East and abroad is very important," he says. "Their medical expertise as well as their strong moral and financial support of the medical needs of the Palestinians in the occupied territories cannot be overlooked or belittled."

In view of the ever growing prestige and popular support that MAP is gaining in Britain, the charity is likely to open chapters in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan in the near future.

MAP has estimated respectability and support in Britain. Earlier last month a MAP charity dinner was attended by a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Alexandra, as well as members of the British government.

In order not to duplicate its work, MAP is in touch with other charitable aid organisations in Europe. Contacts with interested volunteers in the United States is just beginning since Swee was sent as an ambassador of MAP on a lecture tour to the U.S. as well as Japan, after touring the Arab countries earlier this year.

"We expect to establish valuable contacts with the U.S. where consciousness and sympathy towards the Arab World is growing after decades of animosity," Hussein said. "Japanese medics have also indicated that they would be interested in volunteering their know how and services."

The only "Third World" support that the MAP has received to date is from Malaysia, where medics have founded a sister to MAP, namely the Medical aid for Palestinians in Malaysia. It has sent scores of medics to Lebanon in the past and still does.

Hussein is planning to join Swee in a tour to gather support from the large Arab communities in South America later this year.

He plans to return to London after a two-year stay in Jordan where he served as the director of laboratory science at the Palestine hospital. "I believe MAP needs my total attention and dedication. It needs someone to guide it, its growing fast and hopefully so are its efforts," the physician says.

In the very near future, 20 more volunteers from Britain are expected to go to the West Bank and Gaza to offer their services as specialised doctors and nurses. "There are 100 volunteers whose applications we are now studying," Hussein said.

Rafiq Hussein was born in Jerusalem and educated in Egypt, Lebanon and the United Kingdom.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

By Hani Khair
Secretary General of Jordan's Parliament

THE Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was the first world-wide political organisation to promote the concept of peace and international arbitration. Its origins date back to 1889 when the first Inter-Parliamentary Conference for international arbitration, attended by delegates from nine countries and three continents, met in Paris on the initiative of parliamentarians and men of peace: William Randal Cremer, from the United Kingdom, and Frederic Passy from France.

The IPU was extremely active from its inception, in the international peace movement. It was instrumental in setting up what is now the permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. Over the years, eight Nobel Peace Prizes — including the first three — were shared by leading personalities of the IPU.

The IPU is a world-wide organisation of parliamentarians united in common action to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective states.

In the firm establishment and development of representative institutions.

In the promotion of international peace and co-operation, particularly by supporting the objectives of the United Nations.

As of November 1988, 110 of the 145 legislative assemblies established in the world's sovereign states were represented in the IPU. The European Parliament is an associate member.

The IPU brings together parliamentarians of different countries and ideologies — organised in national groups established in or by their legislative assemblies — for the objective study of political, economic, social and cultural problems of international significance.

IPU members submit to their respective assemblies and governments the resolutions adopted by the IPU and promote their implementation.

Numerous measures of a legislative, policy or technical nature have been taken all over the world as a result.

Statutory organs of the IPU

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference is the principal statutory organ of the IPU. It studies international problems and makes recommendations representing the views of the organisation as a whole. Participating national groups are represented by delegations whose voting rights vary, mainly according to their state's population. In addition to topical issues of a political nature often concerning local or regional conflicts, recent conferences — held twice a year since 1984 — have adopted resolutions on issues such as disarmament, development, health, population, environment, women's rights, decolonisation and humanitarian law.

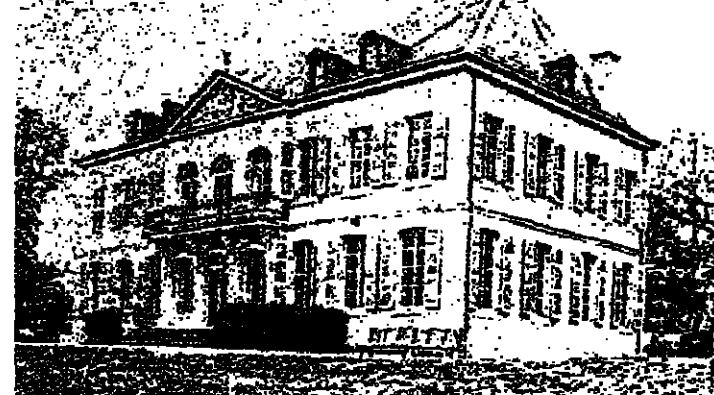
An average of 500 parliamentarians participate in each session. Conference have, over the years, been hosted by nearly 50 countries, providing the participants with opportunities as well to be confronted with different national realities.

2. The Inter-Parliamentary Council: guides and monitors the activities of the IPU. It establishes the annual programme and budget and is responsible for the admission or suspension of national groups. The council is composed of two representatives from each affiliated group.

Its president currently is Daouda Sow, president of the National Assembly of Senegal.

3. The Executive Committee supervises the administration of the Union and provides advice to the council. Twelve of its thirteen members are elected by the conference; the president of the Inter-Parliamentary Council is ex-officio member and president.

4. The committees, set up by the IPC, assist the conference in



its works. There are currently four: (1) on political questions, international security and disarmament; (2) on parliamentary, juridical and human rights questions; (3) on economic, social, cultural and environmental questions; (4) on non-self-governing territories and ethnic questions.

All national groups are represented on each committee by one member and one substitute. The secretariat, based in Geneva, is responsible for carrying out the programme of activities of the IPU in conformity with the decisions of its statutory organs. Secretary general: Mr. Pierre Corillon.

Activities of the IPU

The IPU organises specialised world-wide or regional meetings for the study of specific problems particularly in the fields of international security, development and social affairs.

Disarmament

In May 1985 in Mexico City, to development have been organised by the IPU since 1979. International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, co-sponsored by the U.N. population fund, in Colombo (August 1979) followed by a conference on population and development in Africa, in Nairobi July 19, 1981.

Health and development in the South-East Asian and Western Pacific Regions, jointly with WHO, in Bangkok February 1985.

"Health — a basis for development in Africa" with WHO and in co-operation with the Union of African Parliaments

the union organised a symposium on disarmament relating to conventional weapons in co-operation with the United Nations. A conference on disarmament and development is due to take place in Bonn, in early 1990.

European rapprochement

Work in this field has involved the holding of six inter-parliamentary conferences on European co-operation and security in Helsinki (1973), Brussels (1975), Vienna (1978), Brussels (1980), Budapest (1983) and Bonn (1986). The holding of a seventh conference is under study. The programme includes, in addition, regular meetings of delegates from the countries which signed the Helsinki Final Act, held during the union's statutory sessions, as well as a network of bilateral contact among the groups concerned.

Environment

In December 1984, the union organised in Nairobi, in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, a world-wide Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Environment followed in February 1987 by a meeting to review the implementation of the recommendations of the 1984 conference.

In addition, five meetings of parliamentarians from the Mediterranean coastal states were organised by the IPU between 1974 and 1982 in support of international efforts to preserve the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea.

Development

Six conferences on themes link-

(UAP), in Brazzaville June 1988; Employment in Africa, in co-operation with ILO and UAP, in Dakar, October 1985;

Agricultural development and food security in Africa, in co-operation with FAO and UAP, in Harare, December 1986.

Women and children

In November 1982, the union organised in Yaounde, in co-operation with UNICEF, a conference on policies, programmes and legislation for children in Africa.

Meetings of participating women parliamentarians are held on the occasion of every statutory conference. An Inter-Parliamentary symposium on the participation of women in the political and parliamentary decision-making process will be held in Madrid from Oct. 16-20, 1989.

Drugs

In November 1987, the union organised an Inter-Parliamentary Conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the Western hemisphere in Caracas, in co-operation with the United Nations, WHO and the Latin American parliament.

Tourism

An Inter-Parliamentary Conference on tourism will be held in The Hague from April 10-14, 1989. It is being organised by the IPU and the World Tourism Organisation.

Relations with other international organisations

The IPU maintains a close working relationship with the United Nations. It has consultative status category 1, with the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Co-operation with United Nations agencies and subsidiary organs, including the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNESCO, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UNICEF and others, has considerably expanded in recent years. Numerous specialised conferences have been organised in co-operation with them and more are in preparation.

Annual meetings of parliamentarians attending the U.N. General Assembly in New York as members of their national de-

legations have been held since 1979. These have provided useful opportunities for discussion of senior U.N. officials on the programmes and activities for which they are responsible.

Ongoing relations are also maintained with such regional organisations as the Council of Europe, the Organisation of American States, The Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League as well as with official, regional associations of parliamentarians including the Union of African Parliaments, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians Union, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation, the Latin American Parliament and the American Parliament.

Human Rights of parliamentarians

In 1976, the union adopted a "procedure for the examination and treatment of communications concerning violations of the human rights of parliamentarians" applicable to members of the parliament who are subjected to arrest, detention, during the exercise of their mandate, whether the parliament is sitting, in recess or has been dissolved. In order to avoid any extra-judicial measures, a committee of five members is responsible for the treatment of such communications. It does not prove possible to reach a satisfactory settlement of such a case, these are referred to the International Human Rights Commission with the authorities of the countries concerned. The committee submits a report and recommendations on the measures to be taken to the Inter-Parliamentary Council. The report is transmitted to the national groups concerned. A great number of cases have been settled in this way.

Some of the most serious violations of human rights have been reported from countries where the majority concerned are imprisoned, tortured, killed or otherwise persecuted. Some of these cases have been referred to the IPU.

Near death controversy

By Arthur Max
The Associated Press

FLOROE, Norway — Goran Grip says he saw life after death at age 5.

He was lying on an operating table in 1948, when something went wrong with the anaesthesia and he nearly died. He remembers leaving his body and ascending "a road of light."

At its end, he met what he calls "a being of light. It was a living being, radiating love." Together, he said, they reviewed in an instant the episodes of his short life: his joys, his jealousies and the minor tortures he inflicted on his baby brother.

Grip had a near-death experience. Now he is an anaesthetist in Uppsala, Sweden, and a student of what is known in scientific shorthand as NDEs.

Did Grip have a preview of heaven, or was it only a trick of his mind? Are millions of others hallucinating when they experience similar voyages to the beyond? Or does the weight of so many coinciding accounts point to immortality?

"I don't believe science can prove life after death," said Raymond Moody, the psychology professor who invented the term near-death experience in a 1975 book, "Life after Life."

"But there are questions which can be addressed by scientists," Moody told an international conference that ended June 26 in the coastal city of Floroe. He urged a greater collection of data about the people who report NDEs.

"Despite our careful disclaimers," said researcher Kenneth Ring of the University of Connecticut, "everyone — critics included — understands that the reason we are fascinated with NDEs is the unmistakable implication that there really is life after death and that, furthermore, it will be wonderful."

In a 1982 Gallup Poll, 8 million American adults reported having a near-death experience. Their numbers are growing as medical advances rescue more patients from the brink of death. About 40 per cent of those revived from clinical death or near-death say they remember such an experience.

"The NDE is an objective reality. We agree on this. What we don't agree on is how to interpret it," said Rune Arundson, a Norwegian psychologist. He organised the conference attended by 150 experts from Scandinavia, the United States and England.

Millions tell basically the same story: the mind, soul or self drifts upward, sometimes pausing to

look from ceiling-level at doctors' efforts to resuscitate the body. It travels through a dark tunnel toward a pinpoint of brightness and emerges to be engulfed in light and warm feelings of well-being.

Often it meets dead relatives and sees life in a panoramic flash. It may be offered the choice to return or simply told that the time has not yet come.

Many scientists and researchers say the scenario is the fantasy of an oxygen-starved brain or the result of a temporal lobe seizure in the brain.

Psychologist Susan Balckmore, of Britain's University of Bristol, said the near-death experience is a delusion of "neurons firing at random," which can occur if certain inhibitors in the brain cease functioning.

The dying brain, struggling with the shrinking input of information it receives, tries to make order of chaos and constructs "a new model of reality," she said.

But London neuropsychiatrist Peter Fenwick argued that if that were true, the thoughts and memories of the dying person would be confused and fragmented instead of clear and coherent.

Other researchers cite stories told by dying people which are later corroborated.

People regaining consciousness after nearly dying have been known to report accurately on events happening in the operating theatre while they were unconscious, and even elsewhere in the hospital.

They describe things — the Magenta butterflies on the top of the surgeon's cap, as in one example — which could only be seen from above.

Moody, who collected several such stories among the 2,000 people he interviewed, cautioned that the accounts lack scientific validity.

"We have to be careful. So far, these are only isolated anecdotes," he said.

Hard-headed scientists grope to explain the unbelievable. Jan Pilotti, a Swedish physicist, built an argument based on Einstein's theory of relativity that time and space lose their meaning beyond the speed of light. The existence of other dimensions could thus be mathematically postulated, his theory goes.

Researchers say that with hardly an exception, those who make the journey return changed. They are less interested in material gains and more aware of others. Organised religion often fades in importance.

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U.N. economists expect world trade to slacken

GENEVA (R) — World output and trade are likely to slow down this year and next after growing faster than expected in 1988, United Nations economists forecast Wednesday.

Measures by industrialised countries to curb inflation and greater caution amongst investors and consumers are checking demand, the U.N.'s 1989 World Economic Survey said.

Growth in the world economy is therefore expected to slacken from about 4.3 per cent in 1988 to 3.5 per cent in 1989, and to remain around that level in 1990, the survey said.

World trade increased by 8.3 per cent in 1988, faster than since the early 1970s, but was likely to slip to about six per cent in 1989, it added.

The survey, published for the summer session of the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) opening in Geneva Wednesday, attributed 1988 growth in output mainly to performances by the largest indus-

trialised and developing countries.

Developed market economies entered a record breaking seventh consecutive year of expansion, registering the highest growth rate since 1984.

But the fastest-growing economies were in Asia where many countries, including China and India, recorded per capita growth rates considerably higher than those in old-established industrial nations. In much of Africa and Latin America income per head was declining instead of growing.

"The most modest probable short-term scenario for 1989 and 1990 is one of a modest slowdown in output and a gradual deceleration of inflation in major industrial countries beginning in 1990," the survey said.

"The risk is that a sudden

change in expectations in international financial markets may put an even heavier burden on monetary policy to counteract destabilising price or exchange rate movements, which might make for an abrupt contraction," it noted.

"Such a scenario, with an adverse change in world trade and a rise in interest rates, would make adjustment efforts much more difficult," it added.

The survey said the Soviet Union registered more rapid growth in 1988 than its East European communist partners. Economic reforms adopted in these countries had not yet increased total output as much as expected, and intervention by ministries continued to thwart efforts to introduce market discipline.

The debt crisis of developing countries continued unabated. They were still suffering from acute shortage of resources for essential imports and domestic investment, and this was causing social and economic problems, the survey said.

IEA reports near peak world demand for oil

LONDON (R) — World oil demand is ending the 1980s almost back at the historic peak at which it began the decade, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Wednesday.

Demand plunged from the 1979 record because of the price shocks administered in the seventies by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

But the latest monthly oil report by the IEA, the West's Paris-based energy watchdog, projected 1989 consumption outside the Communist Bloc as high as 52 million barrels per day (b/d).

That would be a gain of 1.2 million on 1988 and of about seven million — 15 per cent — from a 1983 low. It would be just "slightly below the peak in 1979," the IEA said.

High prices at that time stamped consumers to turn down thermostats, develop new technology to use energy more efficiently and use more coal, gas and nuclear power.

The IEA noted Wednesday that oil consumption in the 24 industrial nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) this year would still be four million b/d down on 1979.

But higher Third World demand, particularly in Asia, has helped rescue OPEC, which is also trying to hold prices stable now to assist the recovery in demand.

OPEC output in the April-June

quarter of this year was put by the IEA at 21 million b/d. That was the group's highest for a second, quarter since 1981, the year prices peaked at near \$40 per barrel compared with \$17-20 now.

The OPEC volume, however, is still almost one-third down from then which reflects more competition from non-OPEC sellers during this decade. It still has trouble trying to keep its 13 cash-poor members within assigned output quotas.

Market analysts say the near-term direction of oil prices probably depends on the extent of excess production by two members, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, which refuse to be bound by quotas they say are unfair.

Both have pledged some restraint on their excess to support a new OPEC output pact which took effect Saturday.

Kuwait, in particular, pledged a cut to 1.35 million b/d from a June total estimated by the IEA at 1.8 million including its share of a Neutral Zone divided with Saudi Arabia.

But oil traders are waiting to see what Kuwait will actually do and were not impressed by the latest IEA statistics. Spot prices were little changed around \$18.50 per barrel for North Sea Brent blend, a world benchmark.

In the long term the IEA saw the rise in oil demand easing. It assumed that Western economies would expand by 2.75 per cent next year, after 3.25 per cent

in 1989, and on that basis saw non-communist world oil demand up 1.1 million b/d in the first half of 1990, after this year's 1.2 million.

It reckoned that the West's oil stocks as of July 1 covered a comfortable 97 days' forward supply.

The president of OPEC said Tuesday that a growing environmentalist lobby may make nonsense of any oil price and demand forecasts for the 1990s.

Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria said in a discussion paper that OPEC currently expects only a slight rise in oil prices until about 1992.

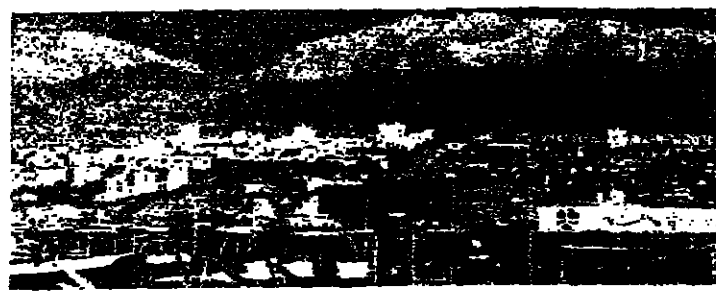
After that, as demand picked up, prices were likely to be tied much more closely to inflation.

But Lukman was far from confident with his forecast.

"There are clear indications that such projections may have to be revised significantly in the light of the demands of the burgeoning environmentalist lobby," he said.

As an example he cited new U.S. clean air proposals by President George Bush which "if implemented would make a major but as yet incalculable shift in energy demand from oil to gas by the end of the century."

He said OPEC sought "an attitude of cooperation among all energy producers and consumers" in a global fight for a cleaner world.



Recent development projects have given Aqaba a new look (File photo)

Aqaba projects total JD 261,430 until June

AQABA (Petra) — In the first half of 1989 the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) floated tenders worth JD 261,430 for the implementation of construction and services projects in the Aqaba region, according to ARA President Bassam Qaqish.

Qaqish said the tenders were for opening roads, developing the northern beach of Aqaba and providing improved services to the local inhabitants.

Other projects included the im-

plementation of the palm tree forest at Qweirah, cleaning the Aqaba beach near the hotels, building earth dams to protect the Rashadieh village from rain floods, developing the home of the late Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali and implementing a services project at the Disi area near the port city.

This year also Qaqish added, ARA spent JD 55,000 on schools and on the improvement of a public square in Aqaba.

Jordanian expatriates to examine role in economic development

AMMAN (Petra) — Recommendations and resolutions that would result from a one-day seminar on economic investments in Jordan, which will be held Thursday, are to be submitted to the fifth Jordanian Expatriates Conference, due to open here Saturday. Labour Minister Jamal Bdour announced Wednesday.

He said the one-day seminar will review a number of working papers on the expatriates' contribution towards the economic development of Jordan and will review earlier investments and their outcome in the Kingdom.

The minister said that 12 Jordanian expatriates will address the seminar and that the meeting will also discuss a number of investment proposals and recommendations to be submitted by



Jamal Bdour the expatriates and the Royal Scientific Society.

The seminar, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is in implementation of a resolution taken by last year's fourth expatriates conference.

Senior officials and representatives of the private and public economic sectors and observers from financial institutions will also take part in the meeting.

The expatriates' conference, which will be opened under Royal patronage Saturday, will discuss a range of economic and political issues of concern to the expatriates.

Inspector questions U.S. aid operations in Egypt

WASHINGTON (AP) — Not a single family benefited during the first 10 years of a \$134 million U.S.-Egyptian programme to provide housing for low-income people near Cairo, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

A new report to Congress by USAID Inspector General Herbert Beckington complains about U.S. aid operations in Egypt. At \$2.3 billion a year, Egypt gets more U.S. aid than any country except Israel.

The project began in 1978 at Helwan, about 29 kilometres south of Cairo, to cost \$160 million, shared equally by the two governments. By March 31, 1988, the United States had spent \$71 million and Egypt \$63 million and not one family had occupied an apartment, the report said.

John Riddle, a spokesman for the agency, said that since Beckington's report was written, 205 families have moved into 150 apartment units. The project had been planned to include 4,000 units.

The United States will stop paying money into the project after Sept. 30, Riddle said.

The USAID report said ques-

tionable management decisions were responsible for problems in the housing project. There were disputes about who would be eligible to get a house, and planners apparently never considered how money was to be collected from the occupants, the report said.

Riddle said the United States is spending 10 million Egyptian pounds (\$3.9 million) to hire local contractors for what he called a "lessons learned analysis" of the project.

The money is coming from the sales of U.S. goods sent as aid to Egypt. Money from such sales usually goes into a joint account managed by the two governments.

Beckington also complained about the agency's system for checking on the \$3.4 billion worth of goods sent to Egypt since 1975.

"Aid had not verified the arrival in Egypt of more than \$283 million in aid-financed commodities through April 30, 1988," the report said, adding that the problem has persisted although it was mentioned in previous reports.

It also faulted USAID's accounting for more than \$11

million in Egyptian currency collected from sales of medical products.

The report, submitted to Congress every six months, covered Oct. 1, 1988, to March 31 of this year.

Beckington praised as well-managed the project to improve the power station at the Aswan High Dam, to which the agency is contributing \$140 million. The dam was built with Soviet help during the 1960s after the United States rejected the project.

The Egyptian government has not submitted required reports, Beckington said, so his agency cannot say if Egypt is contributing the equivalent of \$12 million as promised.

Despite aid given by the United States and the Soviet Union, Egypt is in poor economic condition. Its citizens have an average income of about \$480 a year and one of the Third World's largest foreign debts, \$43 billion.

The government of President Hosni Mubarak is falling behind on its payments. Unless it makes a payment on the \$4.5 billion military debt to the United States by November, U.S. law requires that further aid be halted.

Manila wins \$3.5 b aid pledges

TOKYO (AP) — A consortium of international donors pledged \$3.5 billion Wednesday for the first year of a foreign aid programme designed to strengthen the economy and government of the Philippines.

The World Bank, organiser of a three-day meeting of 20 countries and seven international organisations, announced the first-year figure. If carried forward through 1992, that level of foreign aid would provide a total of \$14 billion to the Philippines, a World Bank statement said.

"We are grateful for the positive and enthusiastic response of the international community to this unique effort to help us," said Roberto Villanueva, head of a foreign aid coordinating committee under Philippine President Corason Aquino.

The aid programme shows "the large reservoir of good will that exists in the international community for the Aquino government," he said.

The Philippines now must show it can use the money effectively, Villanueva said.

"It is a challenge to our people and we must all rise to the occasion to promote our national interest," he said.

The World Bank declined to disclose details of the pledges from different countries and organisations.

On Tuesday, Japan said it would commit about \$1 billion, the European Community said its

12 members would give about \$350 million a year and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reiterated the U.S. commitment to contribute 200 million in additional aid for the first year.

Adding in other commitments, U.S. aid to the key South East Asian country is to hit \$658.6 million.

Japan said Wednesday it also would consider lending \$600 million to help the Philippines cover a gap in the money it has to pay interest and principal on its \$28 billion foreign debt.

Baker said in a speech Tuesday that the Philippines multilateral aid initiative was "critical to the future of Philippine democracy," which he described as "fragile and under attack."

When Mrs. Aquino took office in 1986 after the ouster of president Ferdinand Marcos, the Philippine economy was declining, but in the past two years it has been growing at about six per cent annually.

Officials attending the Tokyo meeting praised Mrs. Aquino's plans to reform the economy, and the increased aid was pledged on the basis of her programmes.

The programme's objectives are to keep growth at about 6.5 per cent annually, hold inflation under 10 per cent and achieve an equitable distribution of the benefits of development, Villanueva said.

A World Bank statement said the donors "complimented the (Philippines) government on the remarkable economic recovery achieved in the past three years and endorsed the government's policy objectives."

Japanese analyst Katsumi Nozawa said the aid would bolster Western strategic interests in the Philippines.

A key goal of the aid is to reduce the number of people under the government-set poverty line, currently 49 per cent of the country's population of 58 million.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, July 5, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	599.4	585.4	86.3 87.2
Pound Sterling	895.3	884.3	399.2 403.2
Deutschemark	295.0	295.9	360.0 362.6
Swiss franc	341.2	344.6	85.0 86.8
Japanese yen (for 100)			40.5 40.9
French franc (for 100)			140.1 141.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	U.S. dollars
	1.596575	1.192030	Canadian dollar
	1.391575	2.155060	Deutschemark
	1.6935405	40.00/03	Dutch guilders
	6.4900/50	1384/1385	Swiss francs
	140/1020	6.5125/75	Belgian francs
	7.0000/50	7.4300/50	French francs
	378.30/378.80		Italian lire
			Japanese yen
			Swedish crowns
			Norwegian crowns
			Danish crowns
			U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The Australian share market closed higher on bargain-hunting in blue chip stocks and strong trade in situation stocks. The All Ordinaries index closed 9.3 higher at 1,513.3.

TOKYO — Political and economic worries combined to weigh on the market, holding share prices within a narrow band to close broadly firmer in light trade. The Nikkei index firmed 119.33 to close at 33,309.71.

HONG KONG — Prices of blue chips rose to end the day's high on increased demand from both local and overseas investors. The Hang Seng index rose 33.93 to 2,330.67.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed marginally higher over a broad front after late selling and profit-taking pared early gains. The Straits Times industrial index edged up 1.18 points to close at 1,305.01.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose after reports of good monsoon rains across the country.

FRANKFURT — Profit-taking pushed the DAX index down 9.92 points to 1,495.75 but dealers said recent rallies will probably resume next week. "The mood is still good," a trader said.

PARIS — With the market sliding listlessly into its summer slow-down the 30-share price indicator fell 0.57 per cent.

ZURICH — Foreign demand and lower Swiss money market rates supported share prices and the all-Swiss performance index closed eight points up at 1,115, a 1989 high.

LONDON — Transport strikes put a damper on trading. At 1516 GMT the FTSE index was down 11.5 points at 2,162.9.

NEW YORK — Trading was slow amid worries that the economy was heading into a recession. At 1636 GMT the Dow Jones index was 7.59 lower at 2,445.18.

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2- Tender No. 20F/89 (the supply of tools and equipments for Eshidiya Mine workshop).

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, supply department until, Saturday 5th, August 1989.

Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (60) for each set, of tender No. 19F/89, and JD 30 for each set of tender No. 20F/89.

The closing date for submission tenders is 12.00 hours local time 15.8.1989.

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مكتبة الأمل



Chinese conundrum... eyes closed to a worrying future

Peking by night — deserted city of shuffling troops

By Terill Jones
The Associated Press

PEKING — The handful of troops guarding street intersections in Peking by day are lost in the crowds, but at night when the Chinese capital empties, the city becomes the domain of shadows and soldiers.

There is no curfew under Peking martial law, but with sunset the streets clear and the troops come out. Sometimes they form long lines along main boulevards. Elsewhere they cluster at crossings and on bridges.

Shuffling almost silently along dimly lit streets in groups of eight to 12, they are invisible until one virtually gets close enough to touch them.

Infantrymen shouldering AK-47 rifles loiter quietly at intersections, stopping cars after 10 p.m. for identification checks and often thorough searches.

"We're here to stop hooliganism at night," said one soldier barely into his 20s when asked by an American reporter what the checks were for.

"There's no problem, you may go," he said, shooing the reporter off.

There have been reports of guerrilla-like attacks on troops occupying Peking in recent

days. A soldier from the 63rd army was killed by a sniper in western Peking last weekend, according to Chinese sources. Western news reports said the bodies of two soldiers were found this week in a Peking canal after they had been strangled.

The government has also charged that martial law troops have been fired on by snipers. Ordinary Chinese have no access to guns, so the snipers, if true, could be by angered citizens who made off with army weapons during the military's chaotic onslaught June 3-4 against pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking.

The footsoldiers are generally polite, telling foreigners whose IDs they check "sorry" or "thank you" — sometimes in English.

Asked to which unit he belonged, one allowed that he was from the 47th army, which records show is based in rural Zhan province. Then a fellow enlisted man interrupted quickly and said such information was "secret."

Officers, generally wearing automatic pistols on their belts, issue orders impatiently.

"Open the trunk, open everything," one officer snapped as he searched an American reporter's car one night.

A waitress at the all-night Wantle restaurant on Changan Avenue said the restaurant had lost its overnight business. "People are scared away by soldiers coming by all night long," she said after midnight in the empty restaurant. "They order our tables off the sidewalk — nobody wants to come."

At their peak, an estimated 200,000 soldiers were in Peking immediately following the violent crackdown that left hundreds, possibly thousands, dead.

Today there are a few thousand, keeping order while plainclothes security forces continue their plodding search for what the government calls "hooligans" and "counterrevolutionary thugs."

Sources at Peking Normal Physical Education College said last week that police came onto the campus after midnight one day and took away about 10 students who they suspected had vandalised army trucks and buses.

"I have to put it this way: There are some elements like that at our school, and they must be dealt with according to the law," one student at the school said, shifting uneasily and using words in line with the government description of the situation.

Soviets to pay damages for ghost MiG crash in Belgium

BRUSSELS (R) — The Soviet Union agreed Wednesday to pay full compensation after a pilotless MiG-23 fighter crashed in southwestern Belgium, killing one man, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said.

He told a news conference the Soviet ambassador to Brussels had offered his country's deep regret for Tuesday's incident in which the single-engine fighter flattened the house of the 19-year-old victim's parents.

"Mr. (Felix) Bogdanov told me the Soviet Union would pay all material and even moral damages," Eyskens said after meeting the Soviet ambassador.

The Soviet fighter flew across West Germany and the Netherlands before crashing into a Belgian border village. The pilot ejected in Poland after encountering technical problems.

Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov said East bloc forces did not detect the aircraft and called for an investigation.

"It is difficult to explain why it was not shot down, why it was not detected," Yazov told TASS news agency in Moscow. "A large-scale investigation should be carried out."

Eyskens said he had agreed to a request made by Bogdanov that Soviet authorities be allowed to recover the plane.

He said he had protested against the MiG's incursion into Belgian air space.

He had also remarked on Soviet authorities' failure to give warning that the fighter was heading into Western air space and on what he called Moscow's "extreme slowness" in publishing an official communiqué on the incident through TASS.

"He (Bogdanov) said he had no answer, no explanation," Eyskens said.

The minister said the incident



Firemen and rescue workers extinguish fire on the smouldering debris of the MiG-23 that crashed into a house near Courtrai, Belgium Tuesday

showed that the system of exchanging information between the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) had to be improved.

Belgian Defence Minister Guy Coeque said the two alliances should set up a permanently-manned joint crisis centre to warn each other about such incidents.

"In future we have to be better informed about objects coming from the East," he told Belgian radio. "It could happen to either side — think of a Western plane or missile entering East bloc air space."

Coeque will make the proposal to NATO as soon as possible and it will also be brought up in November at the next meeting of the seven-nation Western Euro-

pean Union defence grouping, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Yazov said the plane lost power during take-off near Kolobrzeg, near the Polish-East German border.

It was picked up by NATO radar entering Western air space and two U.S. F-15s shadowed it through most of its 1,000-kilometre ghost flight.

Western alliance and Belgian government officials said the two interceptors did not shoot down the MiG because there was no danger of its crashing on an urban area, although it passed near the cities of Eindhoven and Antwerp.

They said they were satisfied that the aircraft, which carried no

nuclear missiles or bombs, was not on an attacking mission and they hoped it would eventually come down in the English Channel.

Coeque said the pilots considered that shooting it down would be more dangerous than letting it run out of fuel and crash.

"There was a very good chance the plane would crash into the countryside rather than a house and it was a terrible fluke that one person is dead today," he said.

He said the pilots were finally ordered to shoot down the plane when they realised it might hit the French border town of Lille, but it crashed before they could fire.

Soviets pay last respects to Gromyko

MOSCOW (AP) — Hundreds of Soviets filed past the flower-adorned open casket of Andrei A. Gromyko Wednesday to bid farewell to the man who steered Soviet diplomacy through the cold war and détente.

People lined the sidewalk for several blocks under gray skies as they waited to enter the turquoise-coloured central Soviet Army House in north Moscow. A black-and-white portrait of Gromyko, with the glum face that earned him the nickname "Grim Grom," hung at the entrance.

Because Gromyko held no public office at the time of his death, he received a private funeral. But the official media gave accolades to the man who served as foreign minister for 28 years and retired gracefully from the presidency nine months ago.

The body of Gromyko, who died Sunday at the age of 79, was dressed in a black suit and lay in a coffin on a bier at the centre of the building's Red

Banner Hall.

Twenty-nine medals Gromyko received during his long career were displayed on red cushions sloping to the floor from the casket. Among the awards were Hero of Socialist Labour and the country's highest civilian honour, the Order of Lenin, which he received six times.

Red carnations lay on the coffin and a mound of flowers and wreaths swelled up from the floor. A dozen soldiers stood guard, and a band played somber music.

Gromyko's wife, Lydia, sat beside their son, Anatoly, and daughter, Emilia.

The cause of Gromyko's death was not announced, but a Soviet source said Wednesday he had been hospitalised for three weeks and died when his aorta, the body's major artery, burst. He had been diagnosed as having circulatory problems five years ago, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A funeral was planned at

Novodevichy cemetery, the Soviet Union's second most prestigious resting place after Red Square.

Senior diplomats from embassies in Moscow travelled to the army building to join Soviets in paying their respects to Gromyko.

Among them was U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock, who stood for a minute in front of the coffin before approaching Gromyko's family to express his sympathy.

Gromyko was foreign minister for 28 years after serving as ambassador to the United States during World War II, then to the U.N. Security Council and Britain in a half-century of public service.

He was a fixture in world diplomacy for decades, helping forge the alliance that defeated Nazi Germany and the Axis in World War II, joining in founding the United Nations and participating in superpower talks that shaped the modern world.

But when Mikhail Gorbachev took over as Soviet leader in

March 1985, he eased Gromyko of power and steered Kreslin foreign policy towards a new, nonconfrontational approach.

Some Soviets have said that Gromyko shared the blame for foreign policy mistakes, such as the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and the confrontational approach he represented was reflected in another nickname, "Mr. Nyet."

He was retired as foreign minister in 1985 and named to the largely ceremonial position of president. Last fall, Gorbachev became president and in April, Gromyko lost his last official post, as a member of the Communist Party Central Committee. He died as a private retiree.

Those attending the funeral echoed the reserved respect for Gromyko expressed by the Soviet leadership.

"He represented old times," said navy officer Andrei N. Pochtarev as he waited on a sidewalk to see the body. "Now we must have a new approach. Times have changed."

'Doomsday solution' looms for Ireland

DUBLIN (R) — Caretaker Prime Minister Charles Haughey's aversion to coalition may now force Ireland into a general election no one wants.

The Progressive Democrats, the small centre-right party Haughey is courting in a bid to win an overall majority, told him Wednesday that further talks were pointless unless he backed down on power-sharing.

Haughey, who made the biggest blunder of his political career in calling a snap election last month that left him worse off than before, was forced to resign last week when he failed to be reelected as prime minister for the fourth time.

Parliament returns Thursday with deputies facing what

Haughey has called "the doomsday solution" — another general election at the height of the summer holiday season.

Irish bar owner Tom Foxe, who was elected as an independent on a protest vote against hospital cuts, is keeping a collection of his election posters under his bed — just in case.

Opposition leaders and political commentators have urged Haughey to abandon his Fianna Fail party's 50-year-old resistance to power-sharing as the only way out of the political deadlock.

They point to a string of coalition and minority governments across the continent — Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, West Germany, Norway and Belgium — to show that this is the European



Charles Haughey

norm. Britain, Spain and Portugal are seen as exceptions with their one-party governments.

But Fianna Fail, which has governed Ireland for 40 of the last 50 years, solidly backs Haughey's refusal to contemplate coalition.

"When the options are to split the party or to go for a general election, the choice is simple," one minister commented.

Britain's Muslims collide with government over blasphemy laws

LONDON (Agencies) — The British government Tuesday refused to extend blasphemy laws for Muslims who want to bring author Salman Rushdie to trial for blaspheming Islam.

Home Office Minister John Patten told leading British Muslims in a letter that extending the laws could damage relations between different religious groups.

Muslim leaders rejected the government's stance and vowed to continue their campaign to bring Rushdie to court.

"It shows to me clearly that they are prepared to use the law to defend Salman Rushdie and his publishers," said Dr. Kalim Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute.

Patten urged the one million Muslims and other ethnic groups to participate more fully in British society, saying there is no room for separation or segregation.

Muslims and others want the blasphemy law extended to reflect Britain's multi-cultural society. The law, which has been used in courts only twice in the past 67 years, covers only Christianity, specifically the state Church of England.

"The difficulties in redefining what should or should not be blasphemous would be immense," Patten wrote.

"Should protection be extended to all faiths, including the very minor or very obscure? Should it extend only to faiths believing in one God? Or to major or mainstream faiths only? I believe there is no equitable, just or right answer to these questions."

Patten said the government also feared "a rush of litigation which would damage relations between faiths."

Patten acknowledged the continuing controversy over "The

Satanic Verses," and said the government "understands how much hurt and anxiety that book has caused, and ... that insults, particularly to a deeply held faith, are not easily forgotten or forgiven."

Rushdie, who was born into a Muslim family in India, has been in hiding since Feb. 14 when the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered he be killed for blaspheming Islam. Khomeini died June 3, but the death sentence remains.

Siddiqui said Muslim leaders will meet to consider a response to Patten's letter.

Liaquat Hussain, general secretary of the Council of Mosques in Bradford, where some of the largest demonstrations anti-Rushdie have taken place said: "We will continue to protest and carry on our campaign within the framework of the law."

Sihanouk vows to continue fighting

PEKING (AP) — Cambodian rebel leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk Wednesday ruled out a separate peace agreement with the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh and vowed to keep on fighting with his Khmer Rouge allies.

"I tell you very clearly that I will not go to Phnom Penh," Sihanouk told a news conference at his home in Peking, one of several cities around the world where he maintains homes in exile.

"I refuse to cooperate with Hun Sen on a bilateral basis," he said, referring to the prime minister of the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia.

Vietnam, which invaded Cambodia in 1978 and ousted the Khmer Rouge, has said it will pull the last of its troops out in September.

But Sihanouk contended the pullout is a farce. He claimed 130,000 Vietnamese soldiers would remain disguised as Cambodian soldiers and peasant militia.

He insisted no settlement with Hun Sen could be reached until all Vietnamese had left, including one million Vietnamese civilian settlers, and until Hun Sen agreed to a coalition that included the Khmer Rouge.

"So you see the problem will not be solved after the 30th of September," Sihanouk said, scribbling the figures on a large chalkboard and stabbing a finger at them.

"No one can stop the resistance from fighting. It is not because we



Norodom Sihanouk

don't have compassion for our people," he said. "We are not for war. We are fighting for peace, but peace without independence is meaningless."

In talks with Sihanouk in May, Hun Sen had proposed changes to the Cambodian constitution to make it more acceptable to the prince, and suggested Sihanouk return to Phnom Penh after the Vietnamese withdrawal as head of state.

Sihanouk has been under pressure from many sides to drop his Khmer Rouge allies. An estimated one million Cambodians died during the Khmer Rouge's rule from 1975-78.

Hun Sen has refused to accept the Khmer Rouge's participation in a post-Vietnamese government along with Sihanouk and a third rebel group led by non-communist Son Sann.

Sihanouk, who was held under house arrest by the Khmer Rouge when they were in power, appeared in May to flirt with the idea of dropping them. But he told the news conference Wednesday that such a move would be putting "The oxen before the cart."

Death penalty sought for Cuban officers

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The prosecutor in the court-martial of 15 former Cuban military officers accused of drug trafficking asked for the death penalty for former General Arnaldo Ochoa and six others, the Cuban government news agency said Wednesday.

Brigadier General Juan Escalona sought 30-year prison sentences for two other former officers, 25-year sentences for four of them and 15-year terms for the final two defendants, Prensa Latina said in a dispatch from Havana, monitored in Mexico City.

Cuba's former interior minister also is accused in the case, but was not mentioned in the sentencing request.

There was no indication in the dispatch of when the three-member court would issue a verdict.

In his final statement Tuesday, Escalona said there was overwhelming evidence and testimony to confirm the former military officers were guilty of treason.

Escalona said they also committed hostile actions against foreign countries by involving the United States, Mexico, Colombia and Panama in their narcotics trafficking.

The former officers were stripped of the rank and expelled from the Communist Party after their arrest in June.

Mexican ruling party admits defeat

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has admitted defeat in Sunday's elections in Baja California Norte, the first time a state governorship will have been won by the opposition in 60 years.

If the result is confirmed by the federal electoral commission next Sunday, the new governor will be the candidate of the centre-right National Action Party (PAN), Ernesto Ruffo Appel.

Ruling party President Luis Donaldo Colosio acknowledged defeat late Tuesday at a news conference during which he said his party was ahead in early returns in four other states where elections were held.

"We must recognise that the tendency in the returns from Baja California Norte favours the candidate of the PAN," Colosio

said. The ruling party's candidate in the state, Margarita Ortega Villa, also recognised the count was running in favour of Ruffo Appel.

Colosio said recognition of the defeat marks a new stage in Mexican democracy, and the fulfilment of a promise by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to recognise opposition triumphs.

"Democratisation has been the symbol around which we have proposed the reorganisation of our party," Colosio said. Salinas' 50 per cent winning vote in last year's elections was the narrowest margin in the party's uninterrupted 60 year hold on power. He has since promised political reforms to promote democracy among an electorate that has become apathetic about voting.

COLUMN
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You're never too young to quit

PEKING (R) — At an age when most children are still being told not to play with matches, four-year-old King Mingming is trying to give up smoking. Mingming, a plump, healthy child in a village in Jiangsu, east China, took up the habit last year when his chair-smoking father found it was the best way to stop him from crying, according to the Shanghai Xinmin evening news. Mingming began with a few puffs and soon developed an addiction, constantly asking his parents for a smoke. Recently, his father decided his son should kick the habit but this was impossible in a house full of smokers, so he had to move Mingming to the home of a relative.

Phone book error angers the unlisted

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Telecom Australia said Tuesday that dozens of unlisted numbers had been accidentally included in the 1989 Melbourne phone book and admitted a number of subscribers could be in danger because of the error. An unknown number of confidential numbers and the addresses of those subscribers were included in the directory, Telecom white pages manager Kevin Brennan said. Brennan expressed concern for people who, following marriage breakups and domestic troubles, did not want their numbers and addresses published. Telecom would consider offering certain individuals security protection if their cases warranted it, he said. "We knew there was a problem in April, but printing had already begun and we had no way of identifying those affected," Brennan said. "The mistake occurred when information was transferred from an old data base. 'The publication of the phone numbers can be easily rectified by simply giving subscribers a new number, but unfortunately the release of addresses is a problem,' he said.

Getting hitched — on the street

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Nanci Stark was born on Grizzella Street and has lived there for all of her 31 years, so when she decided to marry Phil Gavasto there was only one place to hold the wedding: on Grizzella Street. As about 125 friends and neighbours looked on, the father of the bride, John A. Stark, escorted Nanci down a neighbour's driveway into the cul-de-sac, where she stood next to the groom. The lawn was decorated with nine pink flamingos, one dressed as a bride and another as a groom. The cul-de-sac was decorated with balloons, and a piano stood off to the side of the street. Gavasto said he enjoyed the street wedding. "The people here are like an extended family," he said. "The whole block are exceptional people." The bride and groom plan to live — where else? — on Grizzella Street.

Nostalgia for \$9m

WHITE CASTLE (AP) — It is the old south in wood and white paint, and it is available for \$9 million. Nottoway plantation's 64 rooms, 200 windows and 22 white cypress columns are for sale. "A rare opportunity to purchase a part of American history," an advertisement says. The three-story landmark near the Mississippi was completed in 1839. Owner Paul Ramsay, an Australian health-care Mogul, has asked a Dallas realty company to offer the home for sale. He and a partner bought it in 1985 for \$4.5 million. John Lewis of Hoffman Realty said an advertisement for Nottoway first appeared in the New York Times a week ago. By the end of the week, he said, six people, all from the New York area, had inquired about buying Nottoway. Nottoway first opened its doors to the public in 1980.

Global
weather
(major world cities)

	TEMP	WIND	SEA	WIND
AMSTERDAM	13	27	81	Clear
ATHENS	21	70	34	Clear
BAHRAIN	30	80	104	Clear
BANGKOK	27	81	32	90 Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	22	35	10	50 Clear
CAIRO	22	72	100	Clear
CHICAGO	19	69	29	55 Clear
COPENHAGEN	12	64	25	77 Clear
DUBLIN	18	54	26	76 Clear
FRANKFURT	15	53	73	Clear
GENEVA	18	62	33	91 Clear
HONG KONG	26	77	28	82 Clear
ISTANBUL	17	67	27	81 Clear
LONDON	19	62	37	86 Clear
LOS ANGELES	20	68	36	97 Clear
MADRID	23	84	44	111 Clear
MEXICO	18	64	31	95 Cloudy
MONTREAL	16	54	14	51 Clear
MOSCOW	14	54	14	51 Clear
NEW DELHI	26	78	36	100 Clear
NEW YORK	18	66	28	82 Clear
PARIS	16	61	27	83 Cloudy
ROME	17	62	27	86 Clear
SYDNEY	26	48	15	39 Clear
TOKYO	18	64	26	77 Cloudy
VIENNA	19	68	28	82 Clear

M - indicates missing information